President's allies say Marcelo lied again

Story on Page A2

Gov't, Reds disagree on duration of truce

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THEY wish everyone a peaceful Christmas, but they can't agree on the duration of the ceasefire.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared an 18-day unilateral Christmas ceasefire with communist guerrillas, hoping a break in the 32-year fighting would help restart stalled peace negotiations.

"On the occasion of (International) Human

GOV'T/ A5

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001 ★ 58 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 3 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▨ **Burnhams freed soon–Lacson**
  NEWS / A4
- ▨ **Badoy resumes, cuts Erap trial**
  NEWS / A3
- ▨ **Kandahar standoff ends**
  WORLD / A9
- ▨ **Kasparov trounces Kramnik**
  SPORTS / A18

Indonesia invites Nur to OIC meet

Moro rebel's presence 'essential'

By Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

INDONESIA wants Nur Misuari to travel to Jakarta to attend the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Committee of the Eight on Dec. 12.

But it is not certain whether Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad would release Misuari from detention to allow him to attend.

Malaysia is a member of the committee that Indonesia chairs. The other members are Brunei, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Bangladesh.

In a letter to Misuari on Dec. 4, Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Nur Hassan Wirajuda said his presence was essential at the meeting called upon the request of OIC Secretary General Dr. Abdelouabed Belkezis last month.

Belkezis' request for an "extraordinary meeting" of members of the committee was prompted by at least two letters from Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

In the letters sent to the OIC in August and September, Guingona said the Philippine government no longer recognized Misuari as chair of the Moro National Liberation Front.

He said Malacañang was recognizing the Council of 15, composed of Misuari's former lieutenants, as the representative of the MNLF.

INDONESIA/ A16

Erap wants to be home for Christmas, New Year

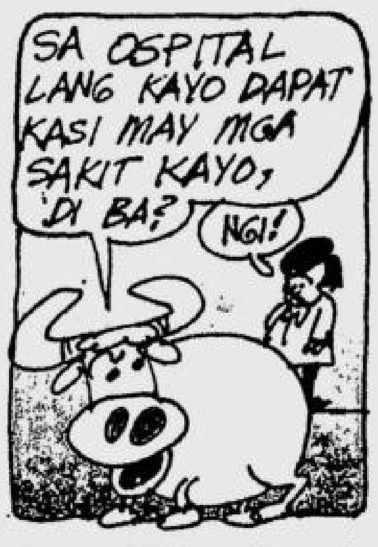
By Volt Contreras

YOU'D think they were still government workers in for a long vacation during the Christmas holidays.

Lawyers for deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy, both charged with plunder, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to give the two men a Dec. 23-Jan. 2 furlough at the family home in Greenhills, San Juan.

It is apparently a first in the country's legal system, but it is the second attempt of the Estrada lawyers to invoke family ties and religious traditions to get their VIP clients time off from detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Shortly before All Saints' Day they sought permission for Jinggoy, a former mayor of San Juan, to visit his grandparents' graves. The court, however, was not able to resolve the motion in time, and it was consequently deemed moot.


SA OSPITAL LANG KAYO DAPAT KASI MAY MGA SAKIT KAYO, 'DI BA?
NGI!

Now the Estrada lawyers are

ERAP/ A17

Security, peace and order top summit

By Doris Dumlao and Carlito Pablo

PEACE and order and security concerns topped the agenda of the National Socio-Economic Summit called by President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday. It adopted measures aimed at curbing terrorism within six months and at preventing an economic downturn that could aggravate poverty.

"This is no ordinary political exercise and we are going to do what we say," the President told some 800 economic managers, politicians and business and labor leaders.

The delegates signed a pact at the Manila Hotel in the presence of the President, who called on different sectors to support measures that could put more food on the table of Filipino families, provide more land to farmers and prevent loss of jobs.

Among those who co-signed the pact with the President were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Sen. Blas Ople. Ople and Romulo were co-chairs of the summit.

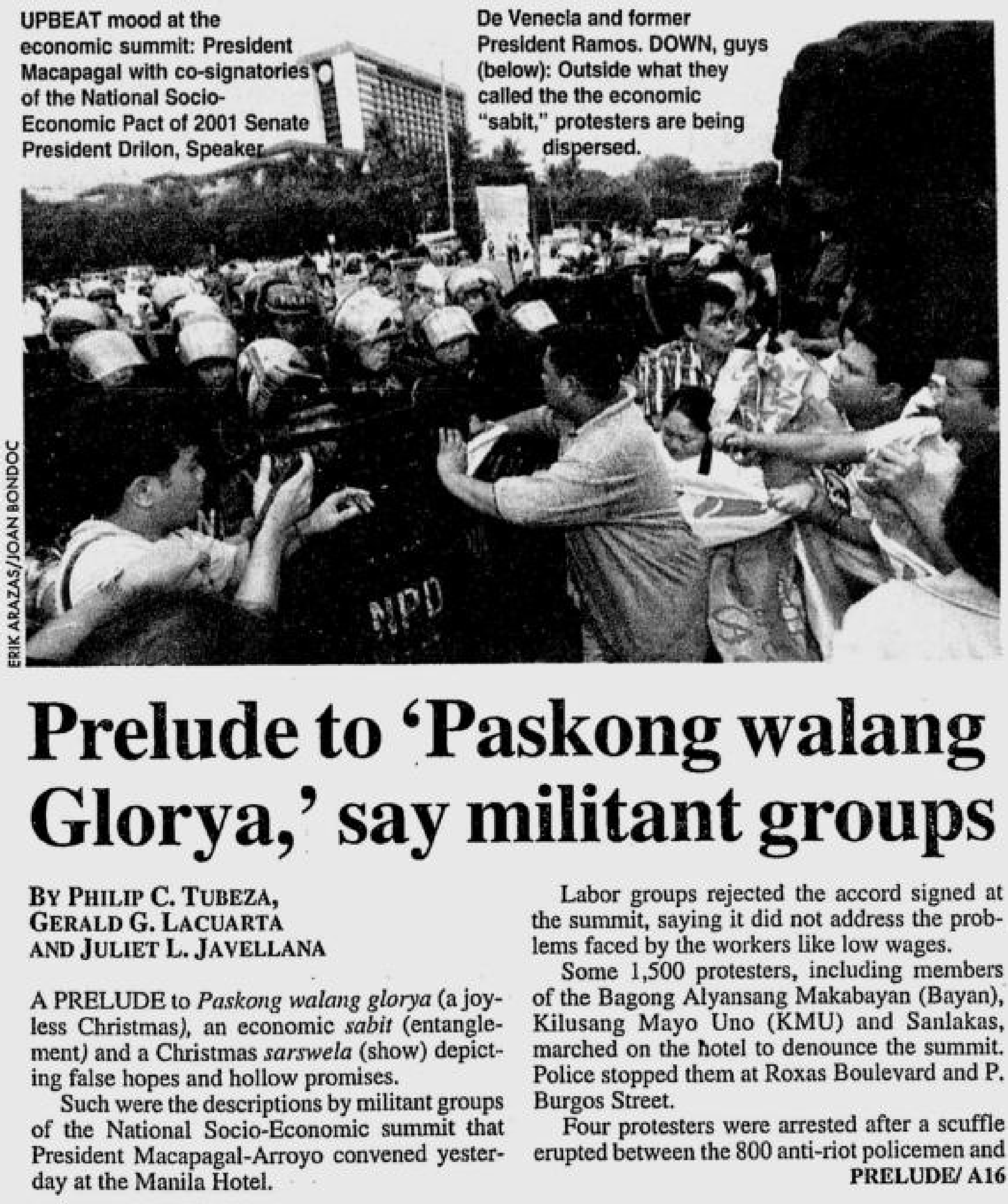
The summit also pledged to accelerate peace

SECURITY/ A16

AT A GLANCE

- To neutralize coup plotters, terrorists, kidnapping, drug and smuggling syndicates; to rid PNP of rotten cops
- Intelligence summit to accelerate, integrate intelligence activities, resources
- Mobilize peace and order councils, self-defense units and effect citizens' arrest
- With exports down, focus on homegrown strengths
- Improve delivery of basic social services, including housing
- Enhance competitiveness in agriculture, industry including tourism
- Ensure economic stability through better revenue collection
- Roadmap to recovery in place
- Action agenda "doable" in six months

UPBEAT mood at the economic summit: President Macapagal with co-signatories of the National Socio-Economic Pact of 2001 Senate President Drilon, Speaker De Venecia and former President Ramos. DOWN, guys (below): Outside what they called the the economic "sabit," protesters are being dispersed.



ERIK ARAZAS/JOAN BONDOC

Prelude to 'Paskong walang Glorya,' say militant groups

By Philip C. Tubeza, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Juliet L. Javellana

A PRELUDE to *Paskong walang glorya* (a joyless Christmas), an economic *sabit* (entanglement) and a Christmas *sarswela* (show) depicting false hopes and hollow promises.

Such were the descriptions by militant groups of the National Socio-Economic summit that President Macapagal-Arroyo convened yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

Labor groups rejected the accord signed at the summit, saying it did not address the problems faced by the workers like low wages.

Some 1,500 protesters, including members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Sanlakas, marched on the hotel to denounce the summit. Police stopped them at Roxas Boulevard and P. Burgos Street.

Four protesters were arrested after a scuffle erupted between the 800 anti-riot policemen and

PRELUDE/ A16

Remembering, protesting from north to south

By the PDI Visayas Bureau and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THEY have been waiting since 1985.

But the Families of the Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (Find) have not quit. In time for the 53rd anniversary of the Declaration of International Human Rights yesterday, Find lighted a Christmas tree last night at the Asian Studies Center of the University of the Philippines in Diliman as a symbol of their hope to obtain justice for their *desaparecidos*.

Instead of the trimmings of the season, they draped the photos of their long-lost loved ones on the tree right up there with their grief, hopes for justice, healing and for-

REMEMBERING/ A16

DENNIS SABANGAN

SUMMITRY OF SEASON'S BEST

With love to the newsboys and girls from PDI SVP for Sales and Marketing, Renato Reinoso (with glasses), and AVP for Circulation Gloria Lardizabal (beside Reinoso) at a Christmas party on Monday at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City.

Youth projects go beyond basketball

By Juliet L. Javellana

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

A LARGE number of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) projects stand as testaments to the idealism and hard work of the youth, and the youth leaders that made them possible would have made Jose Rizal proud.

In Mandaluyong City, the Barangay Highway Hills SK has been providing free treatment and rehabilitation for disabled indigent patients for the past three years in its RehabPro Clinic.

The San Lorenzo SK in Makati City has a feeding program for poor children and has sponsored a free movie screening that brought its rich and poor constituents together.

And other SK barangays nationwide are involved in various activities like scholarship programs, skills training, coastal cleanups, and tobacco and alcohol control.

They also have homes for street children, conduct medical missions, mobile clinics, backyard food production, training for young writers, radio programs for the youth, legal counseling, sports tournaments and cultural activities.

And they build homes under the Habitat for Humanity.

The Highway Hills RehabPro Clinic was established by the barangay's SK in 1998 with the help of the Sangguniang Barangay and

YOUTH/ A17

BAKIT KASI DAW PINATULAN ANG ISANG YAN?

Gloria sees doctor

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made an unannounced visit to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City for a checkup.

"It was a personal visit. She came to see a doctor," a hospital staff member said but who refused to provide details.

President Macapagal, 54, arrived at the hospital between 3:30 and 4 p.m. and stayed there for about 20 minutes.

"She does that often: visiting unannounced," the hospital staff said.

The same staff member said Ms Macapagal's office called for a 2:30 p.m. appointment but she arrived late after a visit to the urban poor district of Payatas in Quezon City.

The staffer declined to identify the doctor whom the President saw.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said he was not aware of Ms Macapagal's visit to the hospital.

"She must have visited a friend who's confined there," Tiglao said.

Tiglao also said that the President "looked okay" Sunday night and met members of her Cabinet at the Palace on that evening until 11 p.m.

SENATE HEARING

Gloria's allies say Marcelo lied again

By Rocky Nazareno
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ADMINISTRATION senators said they have caught President Macapagal-Arroyo's accuser, Pacifico Marcelo, in more lies at yesterday's blue ribbon committee hearing into allegations the Chief Executive had tried to wrest Marcelo's company from him.

Marcelo had charged Ms Macapagal with demanding 51 percent ownership of his Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., a $1.1 billion annual business had the President not vetoed its franchise.

The senators also pointed out that while the blue ribbon committee has conducted six hearings, no one has come forward to corroborate Marcelo's charges.

"It seems that only the number of persons refuting Marcelo's claims is mounting," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan took Marcelo to task for testifying last Friday that Sen. Edgardo Angara did not try to get in touch with him (Marcelo) just before he submitted his testimony to the blue ribbon committee.

Pangilinan showed Marcelo'a copy of the Dec. 12 issue of Newsbreak magazine in which he said in an interview that "Senator Angara had tried to reach me earlier but I politely turned him down."

Taken aback by Pangilinan's revelation, Marcelo retreated from his earlier testimony and said it was Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Bacullo who had contacted him about Angara's desire to meet with him.

"The problem with Marcelo is that all those who have refuted his testimony are lying, while he is the only one telling the truth. That's ridiculous," Pangilinan said.

"This is now a question of credibility. This is now Marcelo's word against the President's, the INQUIRER'S and the growing list of persons who have refuted his statements," Pangilinan added.

His reference to the INQUIRER'S had to do with a Nov. 27 story in the paper that Marcelo refuted.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said that based on affidavits submitted to the blue ribbon committee, Marcelo might have also lied about his claim that the President had called him to the secret meeting in Malacañang.

"He was the one who asked for the appointment," Cayetano said, "and he was taken through the back entrance because he did not want any media around when he arrived."

He said Marcelo may also have been lying when he claimed that Romulo Retirado, who testified yesterday, was his employee, while another witness, Jonathan Ojano, was not.

Both Retirado and Ojano had claimed in their affidavits that they were employees of Marcelo and that he had told them about his meeting with the President in Malacañang.

Both witnesses, however, said that Marcelo did not mention Ms Macapagal's demand for control of PCCI.

"He was caught lying there again," Cayetano said.

Sen. Robert Barbers said he would not hesitate to recommend the filing of perjury charges against Marcelo "if it is found after the hearing that he had lied under oath."

"At this point, it's very hard to believe him because he has no corroborating testimony to back him up," Barbers said.

Barbers noted that while Marcelo had promised to produce certain documents, like affidavits from those whom he claimed had been pressured by Malacañang into testifying at the hearing, he has failed to do so.

Blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo has set the resumption of the hearings next week, during which seven more witnesses are set to testify.

Malacañang officials Crisostomo Uribe and Marita Jimenez and a Sergeant Alviz from the Presidential Security Group have also been summoned as resource persons.

Outside yesterday's National Soci-Economic Summit at the Manila Hotel, President Macapagal cited the recent INQUIRER'S story to further debunk Marcelo's testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee.

In an ambush interview, the President said she did not have to testify before the Senate anymore since even Marcelo's associates have debunked his claims.

Pimentel: GMA can testify from Palace

By C. Balana

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo could answer the charges made against her by businessman Pacifico Marcelo via a teleconference.

Pimentel cited the example of former US President Bill Clinton during his impeachment trial in connection with the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal.

"Teleconferencing would probably be all right," Pimentel said. "That was how Clinton did it when asked by the special counsel to testify."

Pimentel pointed out that Marcelo's claim that the President had demanded majority control of his Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) in exchange for the recall of the franchise's veto remains undisputed.

Pimentel also said the issue of the financial capacity of Marcelo to apply for telecommunications franchises was immaterial.

He agreed that this was really a case of Marcelo's word against the President's.

Sen. Loren Legarda said that inviting the President to the Senate blue ribbon committee to answer Marcelo's charges may not be necessary.

"I don't think it would be necessary for the President to come to the Senate, otherwise we would be calling her each time someone came up with an allegation against her," Legarda said.

She said the highest office of the land should be respected and the President should not be made to endure the hearing process.

"Maybe they should explore the possibility of getting someone else to put the pieces together," she said.

Legarda said the President was right when she urged the political opposition during yesterday's National Socio-Economic Summit to put an end to political partisanship and work together to end the current crisis.

Sen. Blas Ople said the Senate hearing has indeed been drawn along party lines and has sown divisiveness between the majority and minority senators.

For his part, Sen. Robert Barbers said he wants to remain fair during the hearings.

"Me, I just want to be fair to be everybody but it's difficult to mention names," Barbers said.

Ombudsman clears Army chief of graft

THE ARMY chief, Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, has been cleared of graft charges by the Ombudsman's office in connection with an allegedly overpriced contract for the repair of several Scorpion tanks.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto approved the dismissal of the case against De los Santos after an evaluation by prosecutor Luis Aquino established that the Army chief had no participation in the forging of the supply support agreement.

In his evaluation, Aquino said that without allegations as to "specific acts" that De los Santos committed, "it is plain injustice to subject him to a preliminary investigation because it will be violative of his constitutional right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him."

Desierto, who approved the recommendation on Dec. 7, did not entirely close the case, however.

He referred it to the Fact-Finding Investigation, Corruption Prevention and Public Assistance for further investigation.

The probers will determine three things: who were behind the negotiated contract; why the suppliers were able to withdraw 30 percent of the P201 million contract price without delivering any of the items; and why 116 items to be supplied were reduced to 61.

Based on the records of the Ombudsman, the P201-million contract with Bairam Enterprises was approved by the defense department on Nov. 19.

Bairam agreed to provide 116 items for the maintenance of 17 Scorpion tanks, minor repairs for three other tanks and major repairs for 10 others.

Later, the 116 items to be provided were reduced to 61 but the original cost of the contract remained.

This prompted another firm, the TFL Group through its local distributor Zyrmax, to submit a P105.8 million bid for the 61 items.

When Zyrmax failed to get the contract, it initiated the case against De los Santos. *Martin P. Marfil*

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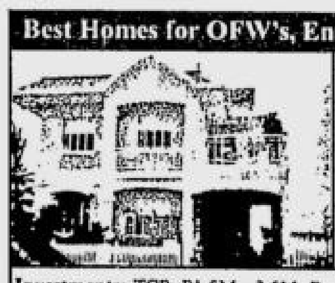
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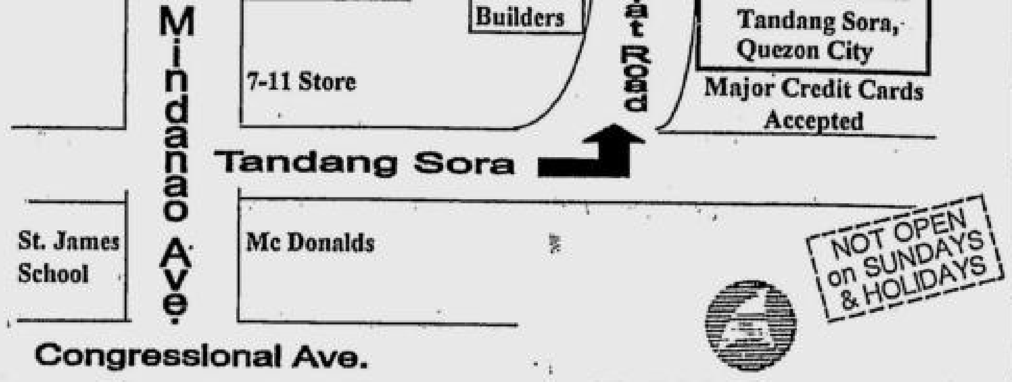

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PLUNDER TRIAL

Badoy resumes, then cuts short Erap hearing

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DESPITE the presence of two doctors in the courtroom to monitor his condition, Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy cut short yesterday's hearing in the plunder trial of ex-President Joseph Estrada, after his blood pressure surged precariously.

Both the prosecutors and defense lawyers could only smile and shake their heads after Badoy, coming from a recess, announced the end of the hearing at 3:10 p.m. The abrupt adjournment came just over one hour after the hearing started.

It was the latest in a series of irregular incidents involving the 69-year-old Badoy, who presides over the historic criminal trial of Estrada and several others.

After missing the last two hearings due to stress-induced ailments, Badoy resumed his duties as presiding chair of the Sandiganbayan Third Division under the watchful eyes of two doctors who were in the courtroom.

BADOY

Badoy had been confined at the UERM hospital for the past 11 days. He was given a "pass" to preside over yesterday's hearing, his attending cardiologist, Dr. Norberto Uy, said.

It was Uy who advised Badoy during a 10-minute recess to call for an early adjournment, court sources said. The justice was expected to be taken back to the hospital early last night.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said Badoy already looked ill when he first emerged from his chambers along with Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Nicodemo Ferrer.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto suggested Badoy rest for one month, although he warned this would cause another delay in the already much-delayed trial.

Earlier in the hearing, Uy told reporters that he and another doctor he did not identify were present because Badoy is "our responsibility."

He said Badoy had been under medication for stress-related ailments, including a recurring asthma.

Uy refused to answer questions from reporters regarding Badoy's fitness to continue performing taxing court duties.

Before the sudden adjournment, the prosecution suffered a setback when Badoy sided with defense lawyers who objected to anti-Estrada witness Willie Ng Ocier's testimony for being "hearsay."

Ocier, vice president of gaming firm Belle Corp., had started to link Estrada to the purchase of Belle shares, but admitted he only knew of this from Jaime Dichaves, a crony of the deposed president.

Defense lawyers Jose Flaminiano and Serafin Cuevas objected to the testimony and Badoy dismissed as "hearsay" this part of Ocier's narrative.

In an interview outside the court, Flaminiano said it is Dichaves, not Ocier, who should be made to testify on the matter.

It was after Badoy had ordered Ocier's statements stricken from the record that Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño called for a recess, during which Badoy was examined by Dr. Uy and was advised to adjourn the day's proceedings.

American shot dead in Zambales

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—An American was shot to death by six men who asked for food and cash then tried to barge into his house in a farming village here, police said.

Police said the men shot John Robert Wallworth twice Friday night when he emerged from his house in San Marcelino town in Zambales province with a knife to confront the suspected robbers.

US Embassy officials urged the police to do a through investigation to identify and arrest the attackers of Wallworth, 56.

His US hometown was not immediately available.

The unidentified men, who were armed with pistols and rifles, entered Wallworth's residential compound but were refused entry to his house. They asked for food and cash, which were given by his Filipino wife through a window, said police inspector Romeo Barbadillo.

When the men attempted to force open the door, Wallworth got out of a back door with a knife and was shot by the men, Barbadillo said. The attackers fled aboard a taxi and a car.

Communist guerrillas have a presence in Zambales, but Barbadillo suspected Wallworth's attackers were ordinary robbers. *AP*

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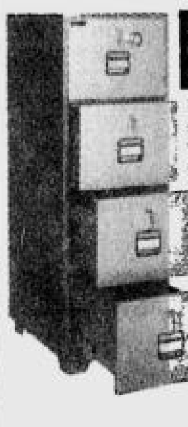
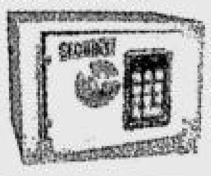
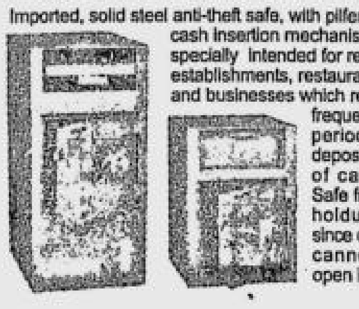

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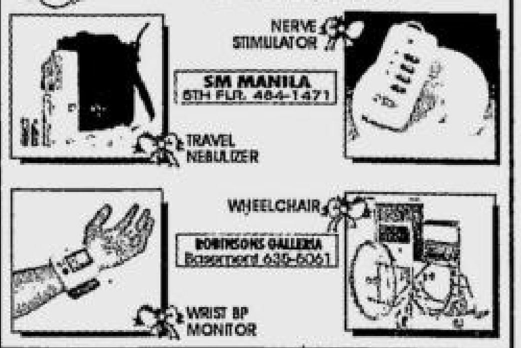
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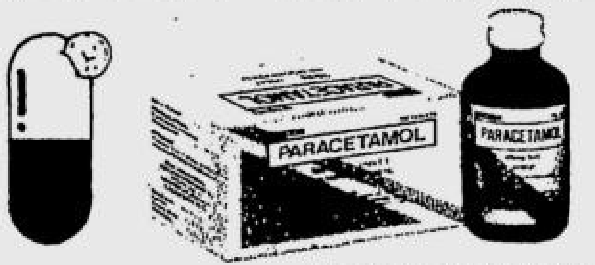

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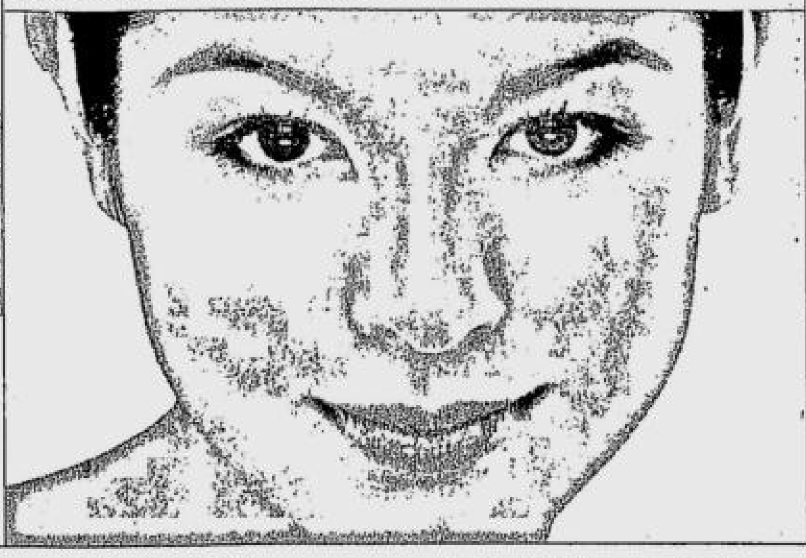
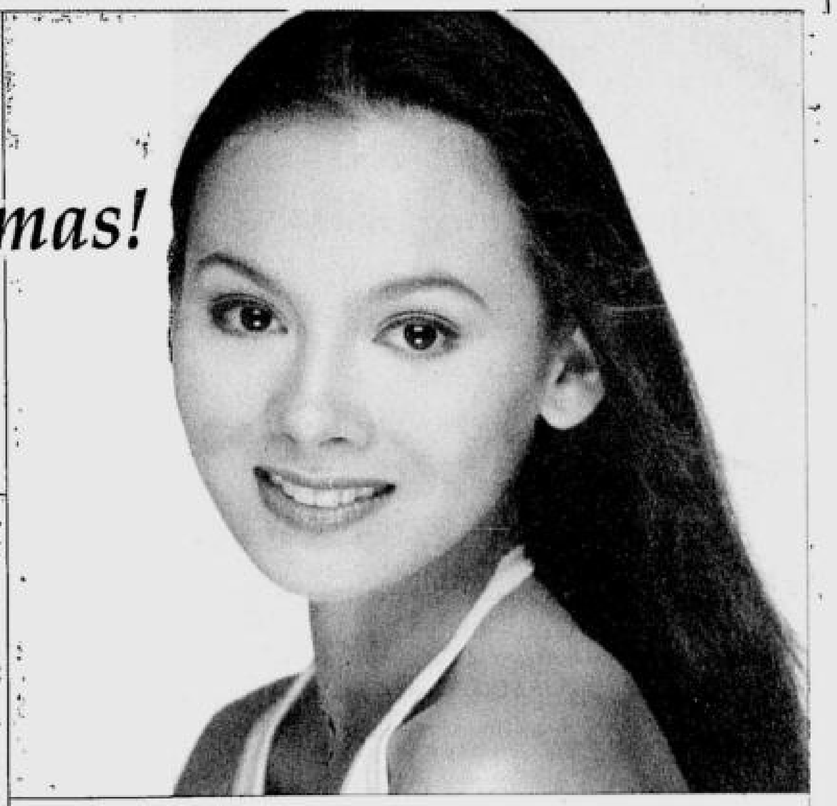

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New ARMM governor taking over today

COTABATO CITY—The newly proclaimed governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Parouk Hussin, and other ARMM officials will formally assume office today, despite the opposition of acting Gov. Alvarez Isnaji, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said yesterday.

Lina said that since Sunday night, his office has been trying to work out a "compromise agreement" with Isnaji.

Isnaji, who assumed office after the then governor Nur Misuari was suspended last month after a failed rebellion, said he could not allow Hussin to assume office until after Sept. 30 next year.

He cited RA 9054, the law on the expanded ARMM, which he said provides for newly elected officials to assume office on Sept. 30 following their election.

"It would be illegal for me to allow him to assume (office) because the election was held on Nov. 26. He should assume (office) next year. The law was clear about the month and the date," Isnaji argued.

Lina said he was optimistic that Isnaji would soften his stand and there would be a compromise or an amicable settlement.

"The objective is to shorten the period of waiting. Instead of (waiting for 8 months), the formal turnover ceremony (can be set) sometime on Jan. 1," Lina told Radio dxMY here.

He also confirmed that Isnaji was summoned to Malacañang about his interpretation of the law.

Lina also said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has canceled her scheduled visit to Cotabato City today and would not be coming to install Hussin and the other ARMM officials.

Even as Malacañang said it was optimistic that there would be a smooth transition in the ARMM leadership, the military has deployed troops around the ARMM compound here and inside the city itself.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Hussin had requested for the deployment to thwart any attempts at trouble-making from Misuari loyalists.

Hussin is a member of the Council of 15 that ousted Misuari as chair of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Also yesterday, Commission on Elections commissioner Luz Tancangco insisted that the results of the recent ARMM polls were "not credible" because of electoral fraud.

Tancangco claimed having received two electoral complaints that would be raffled off in the Comelec en banc, but refused to say who were involved in the complaint.

The controversial commissioner said the 80 to 90 percent voter turnout declared by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo was not believable.

"Just because it's peaceful doesn't mean it's successful," Tancangco said. "Peacefulness should not be a criteria because you never know if the cheating was also done peacefully."

She cited field reports from Sulu showing that there were pre-filled ballots and ballot snatching, which she said had not been widely reported in the media.

Tancangco said she was consolidating the reports from the Sulu field office, which she would present before the Comelec en banc.

She said reports of the alleged electoral fraud had been corroborated by Fr. Eliseo Mercado of the National Movement for Free Elections-ARMM, former Sulu congressman Arain Ami, Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin and former Comelec commissioner Abubakar.

"It's obvious who are those being favored by the poll fraud," Tancangco said, although she did not give any names.

Administration candidates Hussin and Mahid Mutilan won landslide victories in the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial races.

The two, who were sworn into office by the President in Malacañang last week, denied they had committed fraud during the elections. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Hostages to be freed soon, says Lacson

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE BURNHAM couple and the Filipino nurse being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf may be released in a few days without payment of ransom but on conditions, which only the Malaysian government could give.

This was according to Sen. Panfilo Lacson who was visibly irked by the fresh attack by presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao on the senator's role in the secret negotiation for the release of the hostages.

Lacson denied Tiglao's charge that he met with Malaysian ex-senator Sairin Karno in Sabah recently to broker the safe release of the hostages.

Lacson stressed that his Malaysian contact was not Karno but someone who also assisted in the release of Sipadan hostages.

He also said that the negotiation for the release was already in its final phase.

When reminded that the Sipadan hostages were released with the payment of ransom, Lacson said it does not follow that ransom would also be paid for the release of the hostages.

Lacson also denied that he would be jeopardizing the lives of the hostages by agreeing to help his Malaysian contact pay the ransom.

He also dismissed Tiglao's claim that he would get a fat commission for it.

"Everything that he (Tiglao) is saying is a lie. He should stop lying because he is not consistent in his lies," Lacson said.

Asked how the Abu Sayyaf could release the hostages without payment of ransom, Lacson quipped: *"May istorya diyan."*

But Lacson refused to reveal the story behind the impending release of the hostages as he did not want to jeopardize the efforts of his Malaysian contact.

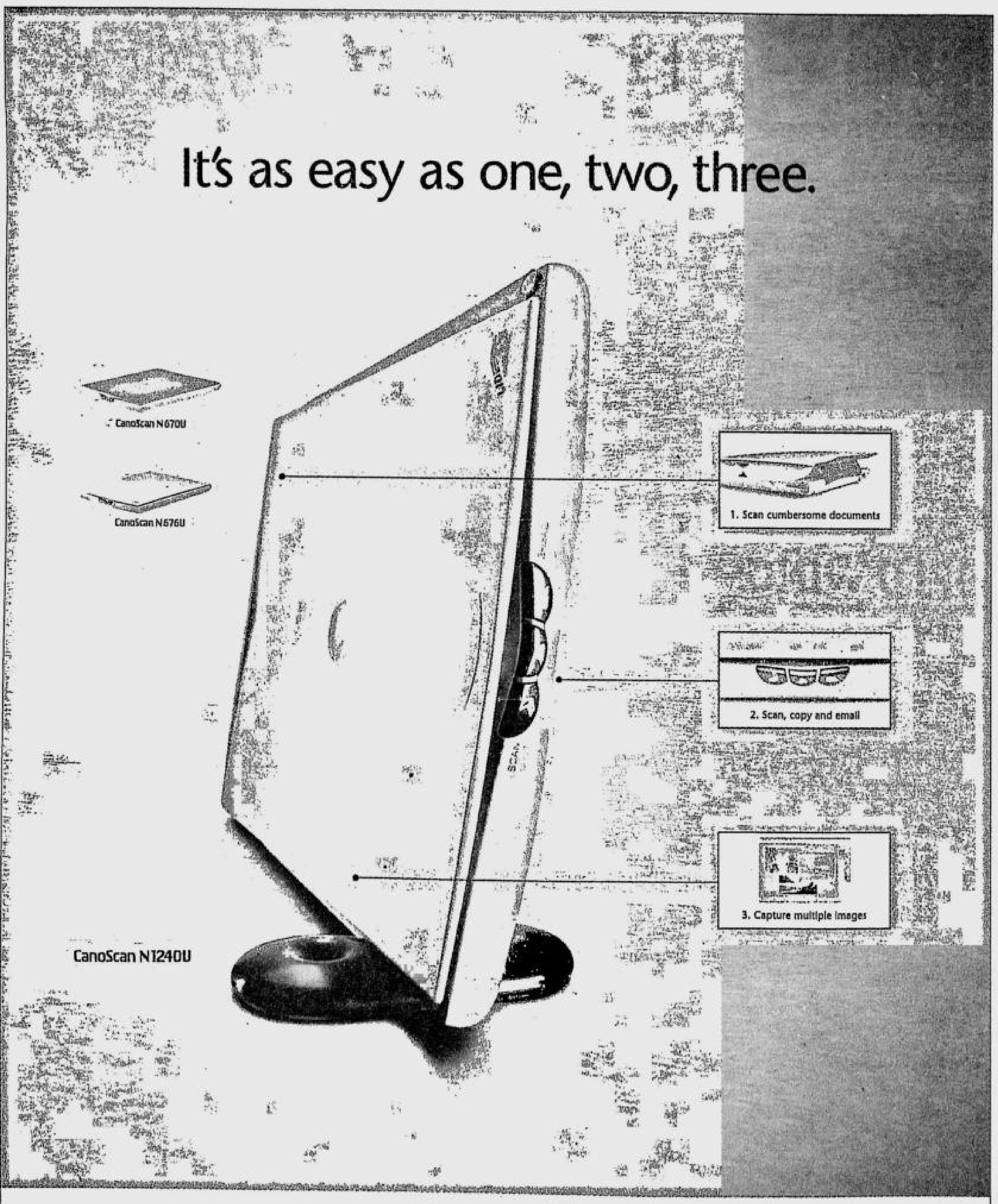
He said the condition by the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the hostages were "not material" in nature.

At the same time, Lacson accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of double-talk for allowing Tiglao to criticize his efforts to help in the release of the hostages.

He said that it was the President who wanted a moratorium on the bickerings by the opposition but has not stopped Tiglao from doing so.

"Tiglao is the spokesperson so he always speaks for the President," Lacson said.

He said it was preposterous for Tiglao to surmise that ransom will be paid since the Malaysians would never pay the ransom for Americans like the Burnham couple and a Filipina nurse.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Farmers' group disowns coco deal

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND DEBRA JANE MAGALLON
PDI Visayas Bureau

A FARMERS' group that was a party to a compromise agreement on the disputed coconut levy funds that was signed in Davao City on Oct. 28, denied that a deal had been reached and claimed that negotiations with San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco were still going on.

Buboy Bernadette, spokesperson for the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMMN), said the reported compromise agreement between the coconut farmers and the Coconut Producers Federation (Cocofed) for the creation of a P50-billion perpetual trust fund from a portion of the levy funds lodged in SMC shares was not true.

He said no negotiations took place between the PKSMMN and Cocofed in Davao City on Oct. 28.

Assurance

Bernadette said Cojuangco only gave an assurance during that meeting that he would not oppose any move to release the 27 percent of coco levy shares lodged in SMC shares.

The PKSMMN, led by Philippine Coconut Authority director Efren Villasenor, and the National Coconut Farmers Coordinating Council are involved in negotiations with Cocofed to unlock the 27 percent shares in the SMC which were allegedly bought using coco levy funds collected from coconut farmers from 1974 to 1982.

The value of the shares is now estimated to be around P53 billion.

The PKSMMN and NCFCC want an out-of-court settlement so the funds can be immediately released for the use of the farmers.

Bernadette clarified that what had been mistakenly referred to as the "compromise deal" was actually a mere draft executive order, which had been submitted to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Replacement order

The draft EO was meant to replace EO 313 issued by deposed ex-president Estrada, which mandated the creation of a P50-billion perpetual trust fund out of the 27 percent SMC coco levy shares.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has suspended the implementation of EO 313.

In Cebu City, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said it was open to a compromise agreement on the disputed levy funds, but on two conditions.

The conditions are: the funds should be declared as public in character and the funds should benefit all the farmers regardless of the organizations they belong to, PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said at a forum organized by non-government and peasant groups.

If these conditions are not met, Carranza said the PCGG was ready to litigate the cases on the disputed funds that are still pending at the Sandiganbayan.

Carranza said the PCGG has been collecting affidavits from the farmers and other witnesses on how the coco levy was collected and used during the Marcos administration.

The PCGG had also gone through the records of the United Coconut Planters Bank and SMC, which had allegedly been acquired by Cojuangco coconut levy funds.

Carranza said the PCGG has filed a motion to the Sandiganbayan to submit additional evidence.

Court orders PNP to produce Nida witness

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND TJ BURGONIO

A QUEZON City judge yesterday ordered Philippine National Police officials to produce Michael Martinez, the supposed go-between in the murder of actress Nida Blanca.

Martinez disappeared around 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 19 from the Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque City after eight persons reportedly forced him into a vehicle.

The supposed abduction occurred just hours before Philip Medel Jr., who initially confessed to being Blanca's killer, was presented to the media by Department of Justice and police officials.

In a seven-page decision, Judge Percival Mandap Lopez of QC Regional Trial Court Branch 78 granted the writ of habeas corpus sought by Martinez's wife, Ma. Estrellita, and his mother, Teresita.

The respondents were PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, Task Force Marsha head; Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Task Force Marsha spokesperson, and Senior Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Task Force Marsha commander for investigation.

Judge Lopez gave them until 2 p.m. today to bring Martinez before the court.

In his decision, Lopez gave weight to Medel's testimony that he saw Martinez at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's headquarters in Camp Crame when he (Medel) was still in CIDG custody.

Medel said he and Martinez were brought together in the same room.

"Medel was able to narrate the surrounding circumstances of his brief encounter with Michael Martinez in a coherent, logical, clear and convincing, spontaneous manner. He did not falter," Judge Lopez observed.

Medel, in his testimony, described the clothes Martinez was wearing at the CIDG, which the latter's brother, Robert Martinez, confirmed Michael had on when he was abducted.

PRC on good governance

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission is set to transform the agency as a showcase of good governance as it embarks on the 2002 Commission Planning Conference on Dec. 13 and 14 at the PRC Auditorium at Padre Paredes Street, Sampaloc, Manila City.

PRC Chairperson Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe said the planning conference, with the theme "PRC: Showcasing Good Governance," aims to finalize a blueprint for the commission's thrusts and priorities in 2002.

Ibe assumed the post as PRC chief last August. Since her appointment, she has led the agency to major reforms including much-improved frontline services and reduction in the backlog in the issuance of professional licenses and IDs. The agency has also intensified its drive to go after illegal fixers who have victimized thousands of examinees.

PRC oversees 44 professional regulatory boards covering 42 different professions. Over [illegible]0,000 take professional examinations every year in various parts of the country. At present, there are over 2 million professionals in the country who have already been issued licenses by the PRC.

Gov't, Reds disagree on duration of truce

(From page A1)

Rights Day, I hereby declare a unilateral ceasefire with the New People's Army starting today until the sixth of January," she told officials and employees of the Commission on Human Rights in Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal, however, later told reporters that her decision to suspend military operations against the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines was not in response to an earlier rebel proposal for a month-long truce.

"No, it's not accepted," she said, referring to the proposal of the CPP-led National Democratic Front, umbrella of all local communist groups.

"It (government ceasefire) is unilateral because they (communist rebels) have a different date," she added.

Luis Jalandoni, an NDF leader based in The Netherlands, said Sunday communist rebels had been ordered to shift to a "defensive mode" from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15 if the government would agree to its proposal.

"Active self-defense shall be undertaken only in the face of imminent danger," Jalandoni said in a statement.

Even so, the Armed Forces chief of staff brushed aside concerns fighting might break out during the Christmas season since the warring sides would be observing different ceasefire periods.

"I don't think there's any problem. They have their own schedule, we have our own," Gen. Diomedio Villanueva told Palace reporters.

"But police action, hot pursuits, defensive patrols and defensive postures will have to continue not only to protect our soldiers but also the communities where they live in," he said.

The Cabinet oversight committee on national security met Sunday night and decided to observe a traditional cessation of hostilities with NPA guerrillas.

The committee, however, was silent on Jalandoni's offer for a prisoner swap as a prelude to a resumption of the peace talks. The NPA is holding at least four soldiers and a policeman.

Ms Macapagal said she was hoping peace talks. The government walked out of the talks in Norway after communist guerrillas gunned down two congressmen during the May elections.

Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former NDF spokesperson, said in a privilege speech that the government and the NDF had agreed to resume talks in the first week of January.

"The peace talks have just acquired a bright prospect of continuing, and possibly succeeding, with the positive intervention again of Speaker Jose de Venecia," Ocampo said.

De Venecia confirmed that the peace talks would resume next month after the two panels agreed on Nov. 30 to accelerate the process and sign a final peace settlement within five months.

De Venecia said he had secured the commitment of the NDF leaders in Utrecht, The Netherlands, He also paid a courtesy call on the Norwegian prime minister who is hosting the talks.

US classification

Ocampo, however, warned that US classification of the NPA as a terrorist organization would throw a monkey wrench on the negotiations.

CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison also rejected the "terrorist" label slapped on the NPA by the US government even as he expressed concern that Washington could extend its war on terrorism here.

Sison said Washington should distinguish groups fighting for people's rights and waging terrorism.

"The US would be further over-stretching itself and causing its own isolation by recklessly unleashing terrorism against people waging revolution, nations fighting for liberation and countries asserting national independence," he said.

The US Department of State has listed the NPA, Alex Boncayao Brigade, Pentagon kidnap gang, and Abu Sayyaf as among scores of foreign groups believed to have terrorist orientation.

The exclusion list allowed the US authorities to deport or deny visas to aliens linked to these groups.

Sison cautioned Ms. Macapagal against interpreting the NPA's inclusion on the blacklist "as a ban on the (government's) peace negotiations" with the communists.

Both sides "can ignore the current list of so-called terrorist organizations and move forward" in the peace talks, Sison said in a statement to local news agencies.

Wary of rebels

The military has been wary about the government's peace talks with the rebels and their ceasefire proposal.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan accused the rebels of insincerity, saying they offered a truce shortly after intensifying attacks on government troops nationwide and burning several telecommunications towers.

Military officials have said the guerrillas took advantage of the AFP's preoccupation with a massive offensive against Abu Sayyaf bandits holding an American couple hostage in Basilan.

"They did their offensive operations with the end view of calling for a ceasefire," Adan told reporters.

The military is also concerned the rebels would use the ceasefire to recover from recent battle losses, Adan said.

Jalandoni said the ceasefire would improve the atmosphere for a resumption of peace talks in January and increase, the chances of a release of prisoners and implementation of a human rights accord.

Military officials, however, say the communist rebels are still the country's top long-term security concern. ***With reports by Juliet Labog-Javellana, Martin P. Marfil, Gerald G. Lacuarta, AP, AFP and Reuters***

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OPINION

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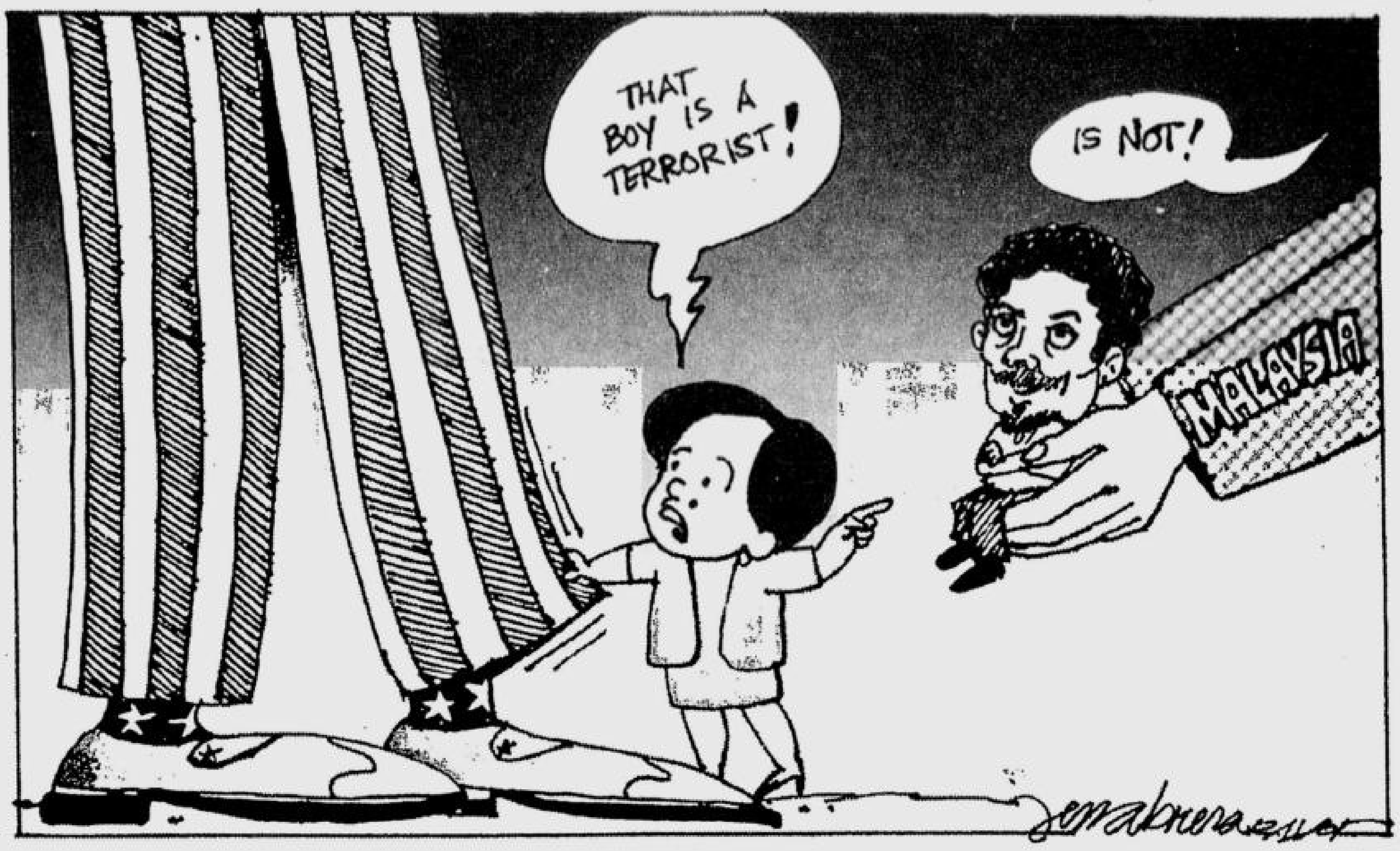
THAT BOY IS A TERRORIST!
IS NOT!
MALAYSIA

A new cinema

EDITORIAL

BAGONG buhay, bagong cinema" (A new life, a new cinema) is the theme of the Third Cinema International Film Festival which opened last Thursday in Makati. The Philippine movie industry does indeed need an infusion of new blood to revive it—not just to make it financially viable but to make it artistically alive.

Director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI cited the economic problems of the movie industry: rising production costs, falling profit margins, competition from VCD "pirates" and a shrinking audience, with more people preferring Hollywood movies to local ones.

Aguiluz said that if there is any hope for the Filipino filmmaker, it is in "the introduction of new people with new ideas, the trying out of new themes and new media, the telling of new stories and the use of new methods in telling them." Truly, the Philippine movie industry needs not just a financial boost but an artistic and creative shot in the arm if it is to enjoy a new lease on life.

President Macapagal, the guest of honor at the gala opening, promised to give P50 million for independent filmmakers to come up with quality movies. She also said she would urge city and municipal governments of Metro Manila to reduce the tax on movies.

The financial support and incentives, we are sure, will be appreciated by the underfunded movie industry. But if the industry is to enjoy a revival, it must reinvent and reinvigorate itself. It has to get out of safe and traditional, cliched thinking and concepts and create a new cinema.

It appears that the Philippine movie industry has fallen into a rut. There are the usual rich boy meets poor girl theme; the kiss-kiss, bang-bang movies; the *"bomba"* movies where the lead actress sheds everything—including her inhibitions, without even the slightest motivation. Except for occasional films turned out by some veterans and some promising young directors, Filipino movies no longer excite us.

And yet it cannot be said that the Philippine movie industry is bereft of talent. It has talented directors, scriptwriters, actors and technical people. It has demonstrated in the past that its productions can win awards at prestigious international film festivals. All this creative energy can be harnessed to produce the promised new cinema.

Producers, directors and actors can learn a lot just by watching movies at festivals like the current Cinemanila festival which exhibits some of the best of independent cinema from all over the world. The Filipino filmmakers could get fresh viewpoints from the festival; we hope that it will get their creative juices going.

The producers say that if they produce "art" movies, they are almost sure to lose money. But this is not always the case. There are many example of films which have been both critical and commercial successes. Among them are Abaya's "Jose Rizal" and Guillen's "Tanging Yaman."

A movie, to be a commercial success, has to appeal to the *"masa,"* yes, but it does not have to pander to the lowest common denominator. Filmmakers have the responsibility to educate the *"masa,"* to elevate their standards and improve their taste. Filmmaking, the newest of the arts, is the only art to have evolved from the bottom up; it was born to serve the masses. Movies can truly serve the masses not by appealing to their baser instincts and their liking for violence and sensationalism but by touching the common chord of their humanity and developing their esthetic sense.

The cinema is very popular among the masses because it is the most explicit of the media of communication. Its images complemented by sound and speech, it is the most complete of the arts of expression. It does not take much effort to sit down in a moviehouse and enjoy a film.

In just a century, the movies have achieved a worldwide distribution that approximates that of printing. What Marcel Pagnol said—"The cinema is destined to be a printing press for the drama"—has truly come to pass.

That the film has a great educational and cultural effect has been acknowledged. Recognizing this, both the government and private sector should join hands in trying to improve the plight of the movie industry. It should not be condemned to languish in its present state. We do not demand that, like the films of Charlie Chaplin, the Filipino movies evolve from "early brutality and sentimentality through indignant social criticism to a Sophoclean irony and serenity." We only ask that the local movie industry pay more attention to verisimilitude and relevance to our daily life and develop a finer esthetic sense, good stories and a more innovative spirit.

The case of the missing sidewalks

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT is about 1.5 kilometers from Culiat High School and the nearby New Era Elementary School to the corner of Tandang Sora and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. At dusk and early evening every school day, students walk from their schools to Commonwealth where they get rides home. They walk on the street, not on the sidewalks. Why on the busy street where they are in danger of being sideswiped by passing vehicles, especially in the dark of early evening? Because there are no sidewalks.

No, there are no sidewalks on this portion of Tandang Sora. This stretch of road has been concreted recently, and either the contractor cheated the government or the Department of Public Works and Highways didn't have enough money for sidewalks and curbs and gutters. Or, which is more likely, the funds for them went into somebody's pockets.

It cannot be that the DPWH doesn't have enough money for Tandang Sora because it is now digging up the recently finished street to cement it again. So it must have so much money that it is repairing the street several times this year, even if it is in perfect condition, having been finished only recently.

And why repair it again? Because the DPWH still has funds which would revert back to the National Treasury if not spent before the year ends. Might as well give it to friendly contractors who will be grateful enough to kick some of the money back to DPWH engineers.

But why not give the contract instead for the construction of sidewalks and concrete curbs and gutter? Because auditors will wonder why there is another contractor for sidewalks and curbs and gutters when these were supposed to have been finished and in fact were already paid for in the contract for the concreting of Tandang Sora.

Secretary Simeon Datumanong better look into this because there is something fishy here. If he doesn't, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or the congressional committees on public works should conduct investigations because this is clearly cheating and a waste of the people's money. Or Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who lives in Tierra Pura which is along the sidewalkless Tandang Sora, should make his own investigation.

In yesterday's column, I cited a DPWH insider's explanation as to why these things happen: excess money must be used up before yearend or the money reverts back to the treasury and the department's budget may be reduced the following year. In fact, this wastage happens not only in the DPWH but also in other departments. And yet, the national government is burdened with a budget deficit that keeps getting bigger, and it keeps borrowing more and more to cover the deficit, mortgaging the future of our children.

Something must be really wrong and rotten in the DPWH. It is wasting money by repairing streets that don't need them, yet it cannot, or do not want, to finish roads that would greatly help ease traffic congestion. These are the so-called "missing links" in DPWH lingo.

A perfect example is Congressional Avenue, a six-lane highway that runs from Edsa, opposite Muñoz Market, through Projects 8 and 6 and other developed subdivisions, crosses Mindanao, Visayas, and Tandang Sora Avenues, and ends in Luzon Avenue. This is finished until Visayas Avenue. Only 1.6 kilometers, the stretch from Visayas to Luzon, remain to be completed. When completed, the road will help ease traffic on Commonwealth (which has a traffic load at times heavier than that of Edsa). The DPWH is spending so much money widening Commonwealth and constructing flyovers over them. But even when completed, those projects will not ease traffic on Commonwealth because of the Elliptical Road around the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Commonwealth tapers into a three-lane road in the Philcoa area where it is joined by University Avenue, through which pass vehicles from the Katipunan Avenue portion of C-5 (which is Quezon City's University Belt). Worse, some stupid traffic management official put traffic signals on all six intersections of the Elliptical Road (most likely for the kickback for the traffic signals) and put steel barricades in the breaks on the island between the outer and inner lanes of the Elliptical Road. Traffic, therefore, is slowed down around the QC circle.

That area acts like a funnel that traps vehicles from Commonwealth and the other streets radiating from the Circle. Because of the widening of Commonwealth, many more vehicles will reach this point at the same time and get caught in a massive traffic jam.

Congressional Avenue, when completed, will take away some of this load because it runs parallel to Commonwealth, doesn't pass through Elliptical Road, and exits right on Edsa. But the DPWH has dragged its feet on the completion of Congressional for many years now, in spite of the repeated requests of residents of subdivisions along it. They had bought their lots because the maps showed the subdivisions were along Congressional, but with the avenue still unfinished until now, the residents have to pass through other divisions—and pay for passing through—to get home.

The DPWH's excuse for not finishing Congressional Avenue: no budget; Congress does not appropriate funds. Yet the DPWH has funds to repair roads that don't need repairs. And Congress has money for pork barrel allocations but none to complete a vital artery. More than half-a-dozen senators and congressmen live in subdivisions along the unfinished portion of Congressional but none of them has contributed any of their pork barrel to at least start the completion of Congressional which would benefit all of them as well as their neighbors. None, that is, except Rep. Chuck Mathay who gave P8.5 million of his pork barrel allocation to the project. The others who have contributed nothing are Senators Juan Flavier and Noli de Castro, and Representatives Jimmy Lopez, Florencio Abad, Ruben Torres and two others whose names escape me at the moment.

Mag-abuloy naman kayo!

Release

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M so sorry to have to go against the wishes of a reader who begs me not to publish her letter. Her letter is far too important to keep private as it could embolden other women to come forth and tell the world about similar experiences. What I can do, however, is paraphrase her letter and keep her identity secret.

The reader writes to say that she appreciated my column on Maria Teresa Carlson. Like Carlson, she says, she is also a battered wife. But her battering leaves no marks because it is not of the physical kind. She is the victim of verbal abuse of such a scale as to leave her emotionally and psychologically wrung each time it happens. Which is frequently. To be more accurate, her battering leaves no marks on her body, but it leaves very definite marks on her soul.

She can understand, she says, why Carlson took the way out that she did. Battering, she swears, induces depression and thoughts of suicide. It reduces you to a level of insignificance you want to take your own life, paradoxically out of a sense of self-preservation. She herself has contemplated it several times, but has pulled back at the thought of her children.

She feels powerless before her husband's unrelenting onslaught, and does not quite know what to do. Unlike Carlson, she says, she has no wounds and bruises to show the authorities or the public. What can she show them, she asks, tape recordings of her husband's curse-filled harangues? The cops would laugh at her, as would the courts.

It is a terribly lonely world she lives in, she says. She can understand why Loi Estrada seems to be full of compassion for other people. She too has found that a way of coping, looking at the problems of other people to forget her own misery for a while.

She begs for this country to see the wisdom of allowing divorce. That, she says, is the only way out for people in her predicament. Annulment is far too circuitous, expensive and burdensome, compelling the wife to go to great lengths to show cause for it. Marriage counseling is useless, counselors often giving only platitudinous advice on accepting the unacceptable as part of God's tests in life. Divorce allows the battered woman to get out of harm's way without having to abandon her children, the only thing that has really kept her from leaving her husband at this point. She can only hope, she says, that this country like Moses releases women like them from their bondage. She hopes I would advocate so.

Well, I've always advocated so. I've always though the passage of a divorce bill was well past due, its being held in abeyance constituting the clearest proof this country has not yet succeeded in completely separating the affairs of God and Caesar, Church and State. And I will continue to advocate so. But I fear that unless we create a critical mass of voters that can assure lawmakers they do not have to pay for their support for it with a beating at the polls, courtesy of the Catholic Church, that bill will never see light of day. Most legislators today support the idea in private, but they will never be found espousing it in public.

I remember that the last time I wrote on the divorce bill, I got a mixed reaction from readers, both pro and con expressing themselves in sanguine terms One letter, if I remember right, appeared in the Letters section arguing that the possibility of divorce merely encouraged couples to be fickle, to take the easy way out rather than to try to work things out. Other detractors warned divorce advocates about the fires of hell if they should continue to persist in their sacrilege.

Frankly, I do not understand the argument. At the very least, we do not have divorce, but that doesn't stop couples from taking the easy way out rather than working things out. People—men primarily—simply take on other partners, temporarily or permanently, depending on one's financial ability, arguing that the "bed has gone cold." The phenomenon of *kabits*, or mistresses, which is by no means confined to the rich but teems among the poor (it is almost obligatory for cops) testifies to this. All the absence of divorce does really is to promote the philosophy that so long as the man goes home to his wife (*"Ikaw naman ang inuuwian ko"*) at the end of the day and gives her money, their union is perfectly viable. A "favor," not quite incidentally, that exacts a heavy price: The wife becomes indebted, or indentured, to the husband forever.

But far more than this, it is a human impossibility that all marriages will work. Some may even venture that it is a human impossibility that most marriages will work, but that is another story. If I remember right, the reader whose letter appeared in Letters also argued that love expresses itself in patience and sacrifice. Possibly. But not in martyrdom and masochism. There is a difference.

The problem is not always solved by people marrying late in life. People do not naturally stop being foolish when they grow up, and human relationships, not to speak of the most intimate of them, are tricky things if not engraved invitations to foolishness. God may have made human beings in his image, but he did not invest them with his prescience.

The price of a loveless union is a steep one, as Maria Teresa Carlson and my letter-writer abundantly show. It is hard to put the fear of hellfire in people who are already suffering from it. The mind boggles at the thought of a God so uncharitable as to punish someone who takes her own life to escape hellfire in this life with more of the same in the afterlife. Indeed, the mind boggles at the thought of a God so uncaring as to allow people to be tortured in the prison of a loveless, or absolutely terrifying, union.

God is perfect, human beings are not. What God hath put together, let no man put asunder. But what human beings stumbleth into, let them find a way to extricate themselves from.

Back channeling as diplomatic art form

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia said at a recent press conference that he had endorsed to President Macapagal the proposal of the National Democratic Front for a month-long Christmas ceasefire and exchange of prisoners that would put the derailed peace talks back on track and hopefully lead finally to the signing of a peace agreement within a few months. Actually this columnist was with the group of the Speaker and Mrs. De Venecia in Mexico City nearly three weeks ago, dining in a restaurant, when his aide was able to reach NDF chair Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands by phone. JDV and Joma spoke mostly in Ilocano (for security reasons, in case lines were tapped), and Joma asked JDV to fly to Utrecht within a few days to discuss not only the resumption of the peace talks but their possible acceleration. JDV replied in his typical effusive manner that for peace he'd fly anywhere. The *tocayos* seemed to be very comfortable with each other; their association dates back to the mid-'90s, when JDV began trying to negotiate the long-desired peace with the NDF.

* * *

Indeed, De Venecia just put down his bags from Mexico City, where he had attended the big annual conference of the Christian Democrat International (CDI) as a vice president, and after securing the President's approval, he quietly flew to Utrecht together with her adviser for the peace process, former Rep. Eduardo Ermita, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello and presidential adviser Silvestre "Yongyong" Afable. After an overnight stay in Utrecht where they met with Sison and Luis Jalandoni, they all proceeded to Oslo, Norway, where Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik had hosted the peace talks between the government and the NDF, until they were called off six months ago because of the NPA's acts of violence. JDV recalled that during their call on Bondevik, he asked the NDF leaders when they would go for a cessation of hostilities and demobilization of forces. Bondevik also encouraged the NDF leaders to transform themselves into a political party, just like the communist parties of Europe.

* * *

De Venecia had befriended Bondevick during the CDI conference in Madrid two years ago and that paid off, for the Norwegian leader agreed to receive the visitors from Manila and Utrecht even on a Saturday noon, amid his preparations for a trip to Washington the next day. A big boost was also extended by Norwegian Minister of Culture Valgerd Svarstad Haugland, the lady president of Norway's CDI, whom JDV had introduced to President Macapagal during the CDI conference in Mexico City. GMA had appealed to her for help in the government's peace talks with the NDF. Haugland was also a delegate to the Summit of Asian Political Parties organized by JDV in Manila two years ago. Also a big help was Norwegian Ambassador to Manila Paul Moe. These developments indicate that the personal networking done by our leaders is now paying off—perhaps the best justification for the foreign travels that are being criticized as a waste of people's money.

In dealing with the NDF, President is said to favor extensive back-channeling over formal panel discussions, which is correct since it cuts through some tedious processes. De Venecia says they may have cut the negotiation time from two years to a few months. But this diplomatic art form requires the use of extensive contacts and generating goodwill over time, which cannot be counted in pesos and centavos.

* * *

In Mexico City, De Venecia told me he was particularly concerned that the NDF group in Utrecht might be put on the list of terrorists, thereby complicating matters. He expressed this concern to Sison who readily understood it. But what JDV was trying to avoid did happen: the NPA, the NDF's armed component, was recently placed on the international terrorist list by the United States. Ms Macapagal has promised to ask the US government to de-list them, but of course it would help a lot if the peace agreement would be in place at the earliest time. It's high time my UP classmate Joma Sison and Jalandoni came home for good to help build our nation.

* * *

For two Sunday evenings on the dzRH radio program that I co-host with Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, we had new Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar Perez as our guest. It was lots of fun since we have been good friends from the time of Ninoy Aquino's martyrdom. After two failed attempts to win the governorship, both against Rep. Exequiel Javier, Perez finally ran successfully against Vice Governor Damian Marfil last May. Now, the new *gobernadora* has hit the ground running with one burning ambition: to get her province out of the infamous list of 20 poorest provinces, called Club 20, by 2004. Antique ranks No. 58 among the 79 provinces and No. 18 from the top of Club 20, with a poverty incidence of almost 54 percent.

* * *

At the birthday party of Senate President Franklin Drilon last Nov. 28, I overheard him advising Perez to forge a solid working relationship with Representative Javier, "as the province is not big enough for the two of you to keep quarreling." Replied Perez: "A, *hindi na*, we're the best of allies now, united for the province." The race to rescue Antique means being competitive in getting goodies from the national leadership, and Perez got an immediate edge when she was voted chair of the League of Governors for Region VI. Thus, she gets to sit in the executive committee, which puts her near the kitchen, so to speak. It helps too that President Macapagal knows her from the Senate days when she was the Girl Friday of then Senate President Ed Angara, and that her father, the late Justice Calixto Zaldivar, was Cong Dadong's executive secretary.

After her first 100 days in office, Perez reported to the Antiqueños that she was able to get P55 million for irrigation and P100 million for construction of communal irrigation system and repair. She also distributed P26 million to all the 18 mayors for farm-to-market roads and P1 million each for post-harvest facilities, to celebrate their election to office. But perhaps the biggest boon was that she has decentralized power to the mayors.

During our radio program, the *gobernadora* spoke about the need to put income into the rural Antiqueño families' hands, by strengthening cottage industries such as the cultivation of Muscovado sugar in the low land and vegetables in the uplands near the Iloilo boundary and weaving (they make fabrics that can rival Iloilo's *hablon*), and luring some of the tourist traffic from Aklan to Antique's tourist attractions. We promised to connect her with Dr. Cecile del Castillo's "Project Dungganon" in Bacolod City, which is helping some 32,000 women with micro-financing to fund small businesses at home. Capital is what the rural Antiqueños need.

Lamentation and hope

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YESTERDAY the world observed International Human Rights Day, not coincidentally the closing day of the annual observance of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence."

To its everlasting credit, "Breakfast," the early-morning show on Channel 23, chose to focus most of its Monday morning show on the various aspects of human rights, including women's rights. And perhaps it's an indication of what a "motherhood" statement the mantra "women's rights are human rights" has become that no one on the show, including the young male hosts, questioned the concept at all.

Still, even if governments and individuals the world over pay lip service to the idea that certain curtailments of women's rights are human rights violations no matter if they're rooted in culture or tradition, the awful fact is that women's rights continue to be violated the world over.

The other weekend, women from different organizations took part in a *pagluluksa*, or wake, to commemorate Maria Teresa Carlson and other women victims of violence. I was in Baguio that day and so I could not take part in the rituals. But I saw a tape of the proceedings recently, and even on video, the ceremonies were moving, appropriately solemn and filled with hope to balance the sorrow.

As Pilipina's contribution to the rites, our national coordinator, Beth Yang, with a little kibitzing from me, composed this "litany" or better yet, lamentation, for all the women who've had to bear the burden of living in an abusive relationship. As my own way of bringing the "16 Days of Activism" to a close, I'm sharing the litany with you, in both its Filipino original and my English translation. Read on, in the hope that in the future, our daughters need no longer recite this prayer.

* * *

Litanya ng Babaeng Nagluluksa

Ang ating isasagot: Panginoon, dinggin mo ang aking daing at ipakita mo sa akin ang liwanag.

1.Nung ako'y dumaing sa mga kaibigan at sila'y nagkibit-balikat lamang.

2. Nung ako'y dumaing sa mga kamag-anakan at ang payo nila'y "mahalagang manatiling buo ang pamilya."

3. Nung ako'y lumapit sa mga pinuno ng barangay at sabi nila'y "away mag-asawa 'yan, pagbigyan mo lang siya mamaya, magkakaayusan din kayo."

4. Nung ako'y humingi ng proteksiyon sa kapulisan at ako'y pinauwi dahil marami pang mas mahalagang kaso ang kanilang hinahawakan.

5. Nung ako'y humingi ng kalinga sa pagamutan at ako'y binigyan ng band-aid na pantapal at ointment na pamahid para sa aking mga pasa at sugat.

6. Nung ako'y magsampa ng kaso sa korte at ito'y pinawalang-bisa at nakipag-ayusan ang aking abogado sa akusado.

7. Nung ako'y nagpahayag ng aking saloobin sa kura paroko at pinayuhan niya akong magtiis upang ako'y mabiyayaan ng buhay na walang hanggan.

8. Nung isiniwalat ko sa lipunan ang aking karanasan at ako'y hinusgahang martir, nawawala ang isip, o dili kaya'y tagasira ng tahanan.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, Panginoon, ako'y binigyan Ninyo ng ibayong lakas upang bathin ang paghihirap kong ito; maniwalang ako'y may buhay na mas makabuluhan pa rito at magkaroon ng tapang ng loob na kumalas sa kulungang ito at ipaglaban ang katarungan.

Sa patuloy ng paglalakbay ng mga kababaihang nagluluksa, aming hinahangad na matanaw ang Inyong Liwanag. Ito ang aming panalangin. Siya nawa.

* * *

Litany of Women in Mourning

Our response is: Lord, hear my cry and lead me to the light.

1. When I called on my friends for help and all they did was shrug their shoulders in helplessness.

2. When I appealed to my relatives and they advised me that "family unity is more important than anything else."

3. When I approached our village leaders and all they could say was "that's your private problem, just let him have his way tonight and you'll soon make up."

4. When I ran to the police for help and they sent me home because they had so many other cases that needed their attention.

5. When I sought healing at a clinic and they gave me a band-aid for patching up and ointment for soothing my bruises and wounds.

6. When I filed a case in court and it was dismissed after my lawyer bargained with the accused.

7. When I poured out my feelings to my parish priest and he counseled me to bear with my suffering so that I will be blessed with eternal life.

8. When I revealed my suffering to society and people passed judgment on me either as a martyr, a woman who had lost touch with reality, or a home wrecker.

In the face of all these, Lord, you blessed me with unflinching strength to bear my burden; faith to believe that I was meant to live a more meaningful life; and the courage to flee my prison and fight for my rights.

As we women in mourning proceed on our journey, stay with us, Lord, and lead us to the light. This is our prayer. Amen.

Thunder and lightning

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME of the younger generation may wonder at what could be described as the Victorian attitudes of their elders and their rather skewered view of sex. Not really having thought about it at any length, it finally occurred to me that certain notions of sex have influenced our ideas of sin colored by a religious upbringing surrounded by nuns and priests. While doing research on another subject that included F. Juan de la Concepcion's 14 volumes of "Historia de Philipina" (alas and alack, the first six tomes yielded nothing on my subject), I discovered the 18th century ecclesiastical mindset on sin and damnation, which attitude appears to have remained in place for centuries).

In the middle of discussing the Moro wars and Igorrot incursions and the rotten time the Dominicans were suffering in Pangasinan (come to think of it he didn't mention the rotten time the natives must also have been going through) suddenly the next paragraph switches to a moral tale about this sinner who was carrying on a wham-bang affair.

He was a resident of this city a merchant from Seville we are told, a man of property, powerful and rich. He was enmeshed so comfortably that he didn't think of separating from her having her at his disposal in his house. (The phrase "at his disposal" sounds downright insulting, but I presume it's on purpose. Note De la Concepcion doesn't say they were living together or that she was his common law wife or even his mistress but the implication is she was a commodity, not a human being.

The merchant fell ill and the servants, seeing him at death's door and attentive to the needs of his soul, fetched a confessor who turned out to be a Jesuit. When the suffering man saw the priest, he began to shed abundant and afflicted tears and between sighs burst out in a piteous voice: "I find myself so deeply squeezed that they could strangle me with a thin thread. Life is ebbing away so fast and I die disconsolate to the point of desperation, so awful are my sins that I see no hope for my salvation. Listen, your Reverence, without interruption because I want to unburden my heart that is so sadly afflicted. Later you can tell me what I can do. I do not regret that my sins will be known, because in the Great Tribunal of God they will be known to the whole world."

He said this in a voice that was so loud even his servants who had retired could still hear. Then he began to recite his sins and even the priest was shocked at his revelations.

"I, Father, embarked on one of our galleons of commerce these past years," said the miserable man. "Together with me, I brought the cause of my perdition along so lost was my conscience. A furious tempest arose and, convinced we would perish, we clamored for mercy. Finally the galleon was wrecked off the coast of Japan, booty for the waves. I was able to maintain myself afloat on a piece of wood while before me other unhappy passengers were drowning or were being flung by the waves into the rocks. Such horrors made an impression on my soul, not the fear of death but the fear of an eternity in an interminable hell and I clamored with all my might to the Divine Mercy.

"The cause of temporal and spiritual ruin, to my great torment came swimming, toward the same piece of wood. In view of the horrible danger, we vowed to reform, offering to employ our lives in the divine service. His Divine Majesty deigned to listen to our fervid and ardent supplications. The sea was becalmed, the winds mitigating their fury so that we were able to reach shore. We didn't stop thanking the Almighty who prodigiously had saved us.

"The impression didn't last long. We quickly forgot the horrible danger and returned to the same relationship as though death and hell didn't exist. In this manner, we have continued and if danger to life weren't so urgent, we would live without remorse."

Here the priest figured that there was no remedy for the merchant's soul (the implication being the poor girl didn't have one?) after so many relapses. But the merchant's face paled at the fear of the fires of hell, his hair stood on end and he continued weeping. The confession lasted for more than two hours. (The merchant must have gone into great detail since there are only 10 Commandments that can actually be reduced to two.)

"Is there still salvation for me?" asked the sick man as though recovering from a profound lethargy.

"Yes, sir," answered the priest. "Everything is in His mercy if you have the right disposition but the occasion of sin must leave the house."

"Let her leave immediately," the penitent exclaimed with great pain, "would that I had never met her."

There was obviously no salvation for either the confessor or the sinner. After many requirements demanded by the priest, he was given absolution and his health began to improve. He started to receive visitors and concluded he was out of danger. His friends persuaded him that the priest was too rigid, that he should not have sent the woman, now poor and abandoned, out of his house.

Filled with compassion, he told them to bring her back. Suffice it to say he was feeling so well she climbed right back into his bed. (My words not De la Concepcion's.)

God's patience had been provoked so many times that He laid his hand heavily on the unhappy sinner. The servants went to call the priest who found him dead, practically in the arms of his false friend. The priest was *summamente horririzado* and must have told everyone since the case became a big scandal, according to De la Concepcion.

But he added that the example made many people change their ways. (You bet.)

Fear of the news

YOUNGBLOOD

I. M. Aznar

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

WHEN I read the newspapers these days, I skip the front page. I go straight to the Lifestyle and Entertainment sections, and then I fold the paper when I'm done. Somehow I feel that my spirit cannot take any more news of civilians being bombed in Afghanistan, or innocent Muslims being discriminated and harmed in the United States, or people falling ill due to anthrax. But sometimes I still find features about doomsday predictions, or World War III breaking out in 2006. On TV, people are talking about the end of the world.

All this is too much for me, a fragile, sensitive and highly emotional person. And maybe it's too much for other people as well. I do not wish to sound indifferent to what's going on in the world right now. I know this involves me because the world is my home, and what happens there will influence my future and the lives of my future children. Yet all this is just the tip of the iceberg.

I am sure every Filipino feels that he has enough personal problems to last a lifetime. Career woes, love problems, issues in the home, health concerns, money matters are enough to weaken and challenge the ordinary Pinoy. And then this.

The question is, do we still have the energy, as individuals and as a nation, to face a crisis as big as this? Do we have the capability as a country to fight terrorism when we can't even find a solution to our garbage problem? Can we still carry this burden around every day? Are we not already weighed down not only by our personal problems but also by other national issues like kidnappings, joblessness, pollution, corruption, and narco-politics?

Sometimes I wish that we will all wake up one morning and realize that everything was just a bad dream. That thousands of people didn't die in New York and that there aren't thousands more dying in Afghanistan. Maybe if these didn't happen, it would be more convenient for us to continue living in a dream, dazed and blind to the truths that the US incidents forced us to realize.

I skip the front page because I wish to escape. Shut everything out. Flee from the fact and reality that there is something terribly wrong with how we live, how we treat other people and how we behave as human beings. I am not sure if I will be understood when I say that I cannot find it in my head, not even in my heart, to even begin to rationalize or process the evils around me: in my family, my neighborhood, my community, in my country.

Too much violence and blood and death. Too much corruption, sickness and injustice. Too many heartaches, frustrations and disappointments.

But somehow I find the will to sit down every day at dawn to meditate and to listen to the sounds of morning. To feel the soft warmth of the early sun, listen to the birds outside my window, watch a loved one sleeping peacefully in bed.

Prayer, nature, silence and love. These things help me go on, amid all the chaos and confusion of this day. A departure from everything that is disturbing and external, and a journey back to that always-silent, always-peaceful place inside of us.

I wish to share these thoughts with anyone out there who may be feeling a little bit anxious, a little bit depressed and fearful about the circumstances that we're all facing right now. I'm not saying that I'm totally in control of my thoughts and emotions. This is just one simple person's way of coping.

We could make a difference not only by taking to the streets to protest the bombings (although that wouldn't hurt), but also by rediscovering the power of our souls. By trying to find and look at the good things while they're still here. And in doing that, preserving what is beautiful and sharing it with others.

Who knows? Maybe as we do these things, we could be sending ripples of hope, peace and love to those around us, and touch a few lives in very unexpected ways.

Because if we get right down to it, power is not important. Even religion is not important. The only meaningful thing is for us to know where we fit in this grand, if chaotic, scheme of things.

I.M. Aznar, 28, is a writer, student, wife and an entrepreneur.

Cats, anyone?

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, M.D.

RECENTLY I heard on the news about a third case of anthrax in the United States. An employee of the US TV station NBC had been afflicted with skin anthrax. That must have sent an already jittery American public into conniptions and made many Americans reach for their Cipro and their gas masks.

Exactly what is anthrax? I've seen reports describing it as a virus. Wrong. It's actually caused by bacteria, specifically Bacillus anthracis. It is not contagious and you can only get it from direct contact with spores. You need around 200,000 of these spores to get infected but while that may seem like a big number, that number will fit into the period at the end of this sentence.

Some animals are more predisposed to the disease. Cows, for example, only need around 50,000 spores to get infected; cats even less. That's because the spores stick to cat fur and these animals groom themselves by licking their fur. An official of the US Health Department even went on TV to say that if your cat got sick, you should have it tested for possible anthrax.

If the panic buying of antibiotics and military surplus gas masks is any indication of the fear of Americans of another terrorist attack, you can bet that the next big thing in the market will be our feline friends. While it may seem heartless and downright silly to put cats on the frontline, the fact of the matter is that the general American public has not hesitated to go on a shopping spree despite being told that gas masks and Cipro are not going to make that much of a difference against anthrax. There will always be that fear of the unknown and a need for a psychological crutch to stave off a feeling of helplessness.

On the other hand, this information is not all that bad for Felis domesticus. Animal pounds will probably have waiting lists for cats that need a home and fewer will be put to sleep. Those who already own cats will be watching them carefully, and may even take better care of them so that a minor illness will not be mistaken for possible anthrax.

Finally, while unwarranted use of ciprofloxacin can cause some harm with respect to antibiotic resistance, and a gas mask may cause your 5-year old to pass out from asphyxia, owning a cat will not be as harmful—unless you are allergic to cat fur. Anti-histamines, anyone?

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, M.D., 26, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines. He lives with two guinea pigs, Thelma and Louise, and has no intention of getting a cat.

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A curious, sudden interest in coco levy issue

WE never thought Dante Ang had such a soft spot in his heart for the small coconut farmers. Imagine being involved in recent talks involving the coconut levy funds and being a staunch supporter of the compromise deal between the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation's (Cocofed) Maria Clara Lobregat and Efren Villaseñor's crew of compromise-happy folks.

Ang claims this deal is the answer to a 16-year-old nightmare as it would release the levy funds for the farmers and the industry. Unfortunately, this Johnny-come-lately hasn't got all his facts and arguments straight.

For one thing, Ang seems to think that it is fair to give 20 percent of the levy funds solely to Cocofed, while all other farmers' organizations will have to share an allocation of 40 percent. Cocofed officials claim that this organization is composed mainly of small coconut farmers. If this claim is true, then why should it have a separate 20 percent allocation while all the other small coconut farmers' organizations will have to divide their allocation among themselves?

Doesn't Ang know, that the salient points of the compromise agreement is the same as those contained in former President Estrada's Executive Order 313? And doesn't he know that the signatories of that compromise agreement are the very proponents of EO 313, which practically hands the coco levy funds to Cocofed on a silver platter? For example, Section 9(b) states: "Twenty percent (20%) of the Trust Income shall be allocated and disbursed to the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed) under the relevant provisions of existing statutes, rules and regulations."

For Ang's information, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo revoked this executive order because of its questionable intent. We wonder if the President knows that Ang is using his position and resources to promote the restoration of EO 313's elements?

Why he is even trying is beyond us. Surely it is not because he cares for the poor and oppressed small coconut farmers. For if he does, he should be questioning Cocofed's proposed 20 percent allocation, not pushing for it. And he should be aiming to have the coco levy funds declared public, not dipping his fingers into shady compromise deals that do not even answer fundamental question of the funds' public character. Isn't that the question that started this row in the first place?

Ang argues that if the Supreme Court wanted the funds declared public, it could have said so in no uncertain terms. Instead the Court only said the funds were "imbued with public interest," which means the funds are private.

But that argument cuts both ways. If the Supreme Court thought the funds were private, then it could have said so. But it didn't.

Furthermore, Ang forgot to quote the rest of the Supreme Court ruling: "...The coconut levy funds are clearly affected with public interest. Until it is demonstrated satisfactorily that they have legitimately become private funds, they must prima facie and by reason of the circumstances in which they were raised and accumulated, be accounted subject to the measures prescribed in EO Nos. 1, 2 and 14 to prevent their concealment, dissipation, etc., which measures include the sequestration and other orders of the PCGG complained of."

That means the coconut levy funds should remain under sequestration by the government until it is demonstrated satisfactorily that they have become private funds. Next time Ang quotes a Supreme Court ruling, he should make sure that he has the complete clause, lest people think that he is twisting Supreme Court rulings to serve his own purpose.

As for the 27-percent SMC shares that Eduardo Cojuangco said wouldn't be affected by this compromise agreement, Cojuangco has time and again declared that he has no claim over those shares, and that they are uncontested. Therefore, if it is uncontested, why should it be subject to any compromise agreement? The next step should be for government to get a hold of the funds and judiciously use it for the benefit of the small coconut farmers and the coconut industry.

Also, Ang should stop saying that this compromise deal will end the poverty and suffering of the small coconut farmers. After all, if Lobregat and Cojuangco really wanted to alleviate the small coconut farmers' poverty, they could already have done so before, when they used to have control over the levy funds and they shouldn't have filed hundreds of motions at the SC to delay the hearing of the coco levy-related cases. It is rubbish to think that it is all right to sacrifice the small coconut farmers' interests because of their poverty. It is because the likes of Cojuangco and Lobregat maintain their monopolistic hold on the coconut industry that there is poverty among small coconut farmers. So Ang should not think that small farmers would be better off entering into a compromise agreement with Lobregat than fighting them in court. Not when Lobregat is still openly clinging to her stand that the coco levy funds are private.

Lastly, Ang's cheap shot at retired Gen. Virgilio David only proves his ignorance of the whole coco levy issue. If it wasn't for David, no one would have known about the anomalies in the coco levy collection. For a better understanding of the finer points of the coco levy issue and to get a full historical account that led to the levy scam exposé, Ang should read David's book, "20 Million Coconut Farmers are Victims of the Coco Levy Racket."—**OMI C. ROYANDOYAN, Philippine Peasant Institute, Rm. 319, PSSC Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., 1104 Diliman, Quezon City**

Higher fees in PGH explained

WE would like to respond to some of the points raised against the recent increase in some fees at the Philippine General Hospital.

First of all, we wish to correct the allegation of Ely Estropigan, president of the Unyon ng Manggagawang Pangkalusugan ng PGH (Umagap), that the number of outpatients in PGH "fell from 2,000 to only a few hundreds" due to the increases in fees for medical examination, procedures and other services. This is propaganda, for PGH remains as busy as ever attending to an estimated 2,000 mostly poor Filipinos who come daily to our out-patient department.

We would like to point out increases in fees for laboratory examinations and services that indigent patients commonly avail themselves of, i.e., urinalysis or the issuance of identification cards, were minimal and insufficient to drive away the poor. For example, our old charity rate for urinalysis was P15; now it's P20 for Class D patients (a proposal to introduce Category E for charity services is still under study). The P85 rate for urinalysis that the Collegian cited in its article applies to outpatients under the Pay Patient Category, while those confined in semi-private and private rooms pay P100 and P110, respectively.

Secondly, it was not accurate for Estropigan to say, "*Dati kasi libre ang paggamot dito, ngayon may bayad na.*" While it is true that certain departments like dermatology, hematology and gastroenterology used to exempt Class D patients from examination and laboratory fees, in departments like endocrinology and cardiology's cardiac catherization laboratory, patients had to pay regardless of their capacity. For example, an indigent or low-income patient with a heart problem used to pay a minimum of P17,500 for coronary angiogram or P10,000 for a permanent pacemaker insertion. Under the new scheme, we charge charity rates for such services. Thus, the cost of coronary angiogram is P3,065 for Class D patients, P4,415 for Class C and P4,815 for Class B patients. Or, for permanent pacemaker insertion, charity rates range from P3,535 to P4,250.

Also while we revised pay rates and Class C and B charity rates for costly supplies and consumables, these remain free for Class D patients.

Also, we continue to provide the truly indigent patients with free board and lodging (room and food), free professional services, medicines up to P1,000 (and P1,500 for patients in the ICU) and discounts for laboratory exams and diagnostic procedures.

The third point we wish to make is that the revised rates for 40 items covering medical procedures, examination and consumables must be taken in context. Much has been said already about the inadequate budget being given by government to PGH, but allow me to illustrate its stark effect on the country's largest tertiary public hospital.

Considering that PGH has the largest cancer-treatment facility in the Philippines, we only have one cobalt machine for chemotherapy. Our two CT-Scan machines have already been used beyond capacity and are in danger of breaking down, but we have no funds to buy replacement tubes for the machines' imaging units. We are badly in need of respirators, dialysis machines and other life-saving devices. PGH needs at least P1 billion just to replace old equipment. Not included here are the repair of rundown facilities and the expansion of other patient services.

Our critics claim that in increasing rates, PGH is turning its back on the poor. This is false. Not only do most of the revised rates apply to pay patients, but the rates themselves were computed solely on total direct cost (TDC) that the hospital incurs for every service rendered.

The point is that PGH must face the situation and explore various ways of generating funds to prevent further deterioration. This does not mean that we should no longer demand a higher budget from government; indeed, we should continue our lobbying efforts. But while we wait for this higher budget, PGH also needs to become financially sustainable in order to prevent the deterioration of medical and training facilities, continue attracting the best doctors to lend their services, and ultimately to sustain our capacity to provide affordable and high-quality medical care to the masses. This, in the final analysis, should be the measure of PGH's survival as the country's premiere hospital for all Filipinos.—**JOSELITO C. JAMIR, MD, assistant director for fiscal services, Philippine General Hospital**

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment and technical supervision for the modular partitions of the Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services (OGCLS), 2/F, 5-Storey Building, per BSP plans, technical specifications and drawing, details of which may be obtained from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 253-6427/525-0048.

For prequalification purposes, interested bidders should proofs showing that they comply with the following requirements:

1. Must be a licensed supplier/distributor/manufacturer with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) accreditation and submit Mayor's Permit;
2. Must have at least seven (7) years experience as a supplier/distributor/manufacturer of modular partitions and a track record as a supplier/distributor/manufacturer of office systems for commercial/institutional projects requiring high-end finishes and excellent workmanship such as banks, offices and financial institutions. The Bank shall verify through site plant inspection of the completed projects;
3. Must be able to submit a list of completed projects together with the copy of contract, certificate of acceptance and nature of the work undertaken;
4. Must have completed two (2) projects costing at least 2.0 million each requiring similar technology, complexity and magnitude as that of the above project; and
5. Must be able to issue a Guarantee Bond for a period of one (1) year after acceptance of work.

The above requirements, together with the photocopies of documents listed below (original of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) shall be submitted to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Bldg., corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila not later than **December 21, 2001**.

1. Company history/profile of the bidder;
2. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
3. Y2000 audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement); and
4. Y2000 Income Tax Return

Only those who comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to prequalified bidders.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI - Dec. 11, 2001)

Blue moons and shooting stars

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I HAVE a feeling most Filipinos, myself included, missed a spectacular sky show last month. I didn't realize this until I read on the Internet about the dazzling Leonid meteor showers last Nov. 18, and how Asians had a particularly breath-taking view. The rave reviews were confirmed when I ran into friends who did catch the Leonid meteors here in Manila. There were hundreds, they said, of these shooting stars that made for a truly exhilarating experience.

The fact that there was no local media coverage of the Leonid meteor showers, before or after the event, reflects the lack of interest Filipinos have for such events. Which is unfortunate because this lack of interest is one reason we still have such low scientific literacy compared to our Asian neighbors.

Right now, Filipinos get their education about nature mainly by watching Discovery channel (and until recently, National Geographic channel, before it was replaced by AXN, a trashy action movie channel). I love Discovery and National Geographic, but we should recognize the limitations of televised nature-watching.

Relying on these channels alone, you end up with a sanitized view of nature, and begin to believe that nature's splendors are found only in Amazonian jungles, or in the Arctic tundras. We forget that more than 50 percent of our own animals—mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians—are endemic, i.e., found only in the Philippines. And we forget that we, too, have ringside seats to amazing celestial displays, without admission tickets or cable subscriptions.

Okay, so enough already with the sermons. Let me just plug the sky shows for December. According to a Pagasa press release (the first one I've ever received, but I'm going to make it a point now to drop in whenever I can to pick up new ones) December is going to be quite eventful.

There was a lunar eclipse on Dec. 3 but it wasn't very visible. We do have an interesting phenomenon this month: two full moons. The first one was on Dec. 1 and the second will be on Dec. 30. The second full moon is referred to as a "blue moon"—the expression "once in a blue moon" meaning something infrequent because blue moons occur only once every two-and-a-half years. Why blue? The moon, Pagasa tells us, occasionally looks blue when dust particles in the atmosphere mix with moonlight to form a bluish color.

The biggest December show, however, will be another meteor shower, not the Leonids but Geminids. There are actually three visible sets of meteor showers we can expect in a year, each named after the constellation near which they're found. The Perseids appear around August, near the constellation Perseus, the Leonids in November around Leo and the Geminids in December (okay, you don't need to want to be a millionaire to figure out which constellation that is).

What are these shooting stars anyway? Older Tagalogs have a rather unglamorous name for these meteors: *tae ng bituin* or star shit, which comes close to what they actually are. The shooting stars aren't really stars but debris that flake off comets as they come close to the sun's heat. The debris orbits the sun with the comet, forming elongated streams of meteoroids. When they come through the Earth's atmosphere they are called meteors or, in lay English, shooting stars. In several Philippine languages, they're called *bulalakaw*.

The Geminid meteors are interesting because they don't come from a comet. Instead, they're debris sloughing off an asteroid called 3200 Phaeton. (Some astronomers suspect Phaeton may actually be an old dormant comet that has accumulated a thick crust of interplanetary dirt, turning it into an asteroid, which is sort of a little rocky planet.)

The Geminid meteors won't be as stupendous as last month's Leonid showers, but if we're lucky and the weather's clear, we should be able to see at least one shooting star a minute (compared to one every few seconds with the Leonids) on the nights of Dec. 12 to 14. And unlike the Leonid meteors, which were visible only in the wee hours of the morning, the Geminid meteors will be visible from 10 p.m. to dawn on the nights of Dec. 12 to 14. People out in rural areas will have a clearer view.

I think I've given enough information which you can use with family and friends as you do your sky-watching. There's more of course on the Internet. I suggest the United States' Nasa website, which also has some excellent photographs of the Leonid meteor shower we missed in November. And maybe if the kids (young and not so young) get really interested, you can buy some books on astronomy for them this Christmas, and throw in a compass, binoculars, even telescopes and other tools for sky-watching.

Bring out your *lolos* and *lolas* as well to watch the Geminid meteors and ask them to share a few stories about the shooting stars. I know this is meant to be an exercise in scientific literacy, but there's always a bit of room for folklore, too, including maybe, wishing on the shooting stars.

* * *

In the next few columns, I want to plug some alternative Christmas gifts. Let me start with books from the presses of the Ateneo and the University of the Philippines, both in Quezon City. Get your books this week since Ateneo's press has a sale, with all books discounted at 15 percent. (While you're on the Ateneo Loyola campus, you should also drop by Jesuit Communications. They have good books as well as audio cassettes, videos and postcards depicting a Chinese Virgin Mary!)

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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The PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA) invites licensed Security Agencies to participate in the bidding to provide security services for the following offices:

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2) Albay Research Center and Region V Office - 12 Guards
3) Central Office, Diliman, Quezon City - 20 Guards
4) Zamboanga Research Center Zamboanga City - 22 Guards
5) CETC/DRC/Region - 24 Guards
6) Coconut Seed Production Center Aroman, Carmen, North Cotabato - 34 Guards

A complete set of Bid/Tender Documents can be secured from the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Corporate Services Branch, 7th Floor, PCA R & D Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

Bids shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. on **19 December 2001** at the 7th floor, Viewing Room, Office of the Administrator, PCA R & D Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. A Pre-bidding Conference shall be held at the same venue on **December 17, 2001** at 10:00 A.M.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in the bids received or accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to the PCA.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. DANIEL M. CLETO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 1, 6 & 11, 2001)

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Pakistan broadens probe of nuke scientists

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has broadened its investigation of nuclear scientists suspected of having links to Osama bin Laden after receiving new information from the CIA, a senior Pakistan official said Sunday.

Two nuclear scientists are already in custody and Pakistani officials are questioning at least two others about their possible links to Bin Laden, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Suleiman Asad and Mohammed Ali Mukhtar have been ordered to report for questioning but are not in custody, the official said.

Two others, Sultan Bashir-ud-Din Mehmood and Abdul Majid, were detained after the visit this month of CIA Director George Tenet.

They had been in custody since October but had been released without charges before Tenet's visit. Both worked for Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission until retiring in 1999.

Afterward, they managed a charity organization, Tameer-e-Ummah, or "Nation Builder," and had made several trips to Afghanistan, where they met Bin Laden.

Both Mehmood and Majid, however, denied transferring any nuclear related information in Afghanistan and said that they only ran education programs and helped poor Afghan farmers.

Authorities said that they defied service rules that apply to government scientists even after retirement, and of violating travel restrictions. *AP*

TRIBAL Afghan fighters make victory signs while holding their weapons next to a flag from the era of ex-king Zahir Shah, in the Afghan border city of Spin Boldak, Dec. 9. REUTERS

Kandahar standoff ends; Bin Laden search continues

KABUL—Afghanistan's newly named leader-in-waiting used his negotiating skills Sunday, ending a standoff that threatened to return Kandahar to pre-Taliban chaos, as US forces continued their intense bombing of the Tora Bora region, where Osama bin Laden is believed to be hiding.

Afghanistan's incoming interim leader, Hamid Karzai, said he had successfully brokered a deal between Mullah Naqibullah, to whom the Taliban had surrendered the city, and Gul Agha, a former governor.

"It was agreed that Gul Agha will be in charge of security and the administration of Kandahar. He will continue his mandate until the nomination of a real administration in Afghanistan," said Karzai, speaking by telephone.

Karzai said that, with the dispute resolved, his priority was now to travel to Kabul in preparation for taking up his post of interim prime minister on Dec. 22.

"We are trying to bring peace to all of Afghanistan. We are trying to bring security to the whole of Afghanistan," Karzai told CNN before the breakthrough.

Witnesses said rival armed gangs and small numbers of US special forces had been roaming the city after Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar fled with many of his men, leaving the two opposition warlords to fight over power.

Meanwhile, US forces stepped up efforts to hunt down Bin Laden and Omar, targeting the Tora Bora mountain fortress in eastern Afghanistan where Bin Laden is believed to be holed up with hundreds of die-hard supporters of his al-Qaida movement.

An AFP reporter saw huge plumes of smoke rise from the mountains there as the bombers pulverized the positions of al-Qaida fighters.

In Washington, Pentagon press officer Glenn Flood said between 80 and 85 strike aircraft—most of which were FA-18 fighter jets flying from aircraft carriers stationed in the area—flew sorties over Afghanistan on Saturday. *AFP*

US, Russian astronauts remember Sept. 11 from space

WASHINGTON—US and Russian crew members of the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle Endeavour on Sunday paid tribute to the families of those killed in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, as well as those taking part in the US-led response to the strikes in Afghanistan.

"Today we'd like to take a few moments to honor the thousands of people in the United States and around the world that lost loved ones in the Sept. 11 attacks," Endeavour Commander Dom Gorie began in the televised remarks, also honoring "the armed forces around the world, who are doing their best to stop this global threat of terrorism."

Gorie noted that the shuttle was carrying some 6,000 US flags, to later be distributed to those who lost loved ones aboard the hijacked airliners that rammed into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon outside Washington and a field in Pennsylvania.

He added that perhaps the most "significant" item on board Endeavour is a US flag that had been flying atop the World Trade Center, which was later found in the rubble of the fallen 110-story twin towers.

Frank Culbertson, commander of the outgoing space station crew, which had been at the station since August, recalled that he and his colleagues were informed of the attack on the World Trade Center minutes after it happened.

"We were flying over North America at the time," he said, "so we were able to look out one of the windows and actually see New York City under attack."

"That was quite a disturbing sight, as you can imagine, to see my country under attack, . . . and I believe all three of us (on the station) were thinking how terrible this must be for the people that were at the point of attack and for their families," he added. *AFP*

Annan: Saving a life is saving humanity

A STUDENT covered in white paint attends an anti-military and anti-government protest marking global Human Rights day in central Jakarta Dec. 10. REUTERS

OSLO—Declaring that to save one life is to save humanity itself, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday called on the world to respect the individual, whose fundamental rights have too often been sacrificed for the good of the state.

Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Annan told a gala audience that "the sovereignty of states must no longer be used as a shield for gross violations of human rights."

"What begins with the failure to uphold the dignity of one life, all too often ends with a calamity for entire nations," he said in his prepared remarks.

Annan, a native of Ghana, shared this year's 100th Nobel Peace Prize with the United Nations as a whole. He received the award for bringing "new life" to the world body in his fight for human rights, and against AIDS and terrorism.

A 63-year career UN official, Annan, was elected as the world's top diplomat in 1997 and reelected in June for a second five-year term that begins next month.

Calling the 20th century among the worst in history, Annan said the beginning of new century, especially the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, had disabused those who thought "progress toward global peace and prosperity is inevitable."

But he said he believed the mission of the United Nations in the 21st century would be defined by a new, more profound awareness of the dignity of human life, regardless of race, religion, gender or circumstances of birth.

His vision is to eradicate poverty among the poorest of the poor, prevent conflict and promote democracy and human rights.

He singled out the example of a new-born Afghan girl, whose mother would comfort her like any mother anywhere in the world.

But he said that to be born a girl in today's Afghanistan was to begin life centuries away from prosperity.

"We must focus, as never before, on improving the conditions of the individual men and women who give the state or nation its richness and character," Annan said. "We must begin with the young Afghan girl, recognizing that saving that one life is to save humanity itself."

The Oct. 12 announcement of Annan's award was overshadowed by the Sept. 11 carnage of hijackers who slammed an airliner into the World Trade Center, killing more than 3,000 people in minutes a short distance from UN headquarters.

"We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire. If today, after the horror of 11 September, we see better, and we see further, we will realize that humanity is indivisible" with "bonds that bind us all in pain as in prosperity," Annan said.

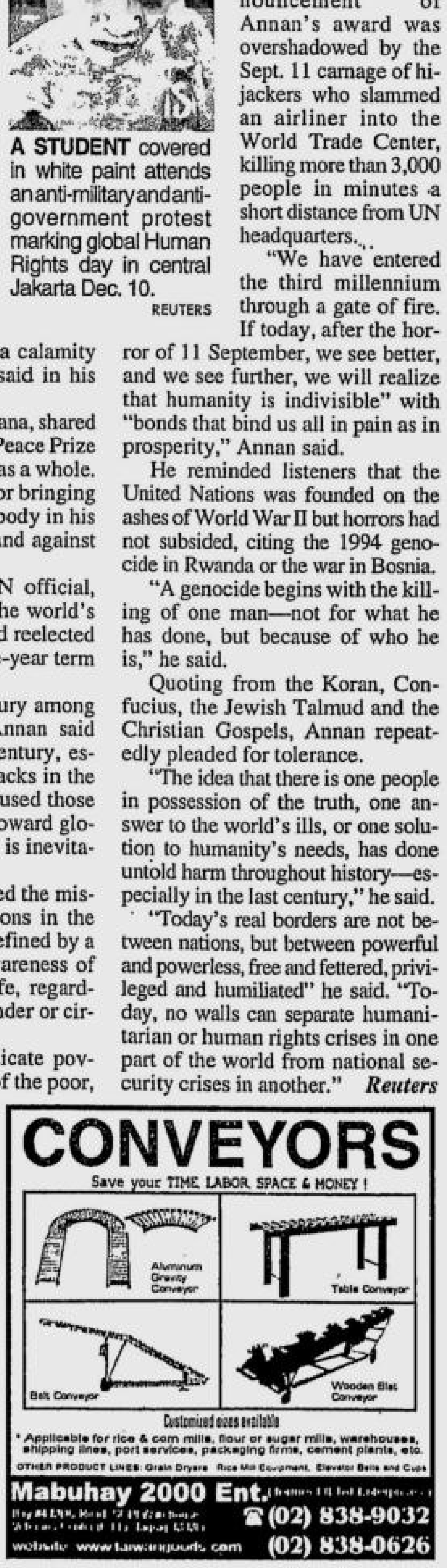
He reminded listeners that the United Nations was founded on the ashes of World War II but horrors had not subsided, citing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda or the war in Bosnia.

"A genocide begins with the killing of one man—not for what he has done, but because of who he is," he said.

Quoting from the Koran, Confucius, the Jewish Talmud and the Christian Gospels, Annan repeatedly pleaded for tolerance.

"The idea that there is one people in possession of the truth, one answer to the world's ills, or one solution to humanity's needs, has done untold harm throughout history—especially in the last century," he said.

"Today's real borders are not between nations, but between powerful and powerless, free and fettered, privileged and humiliated" he said. "Today, no walls can separate humanitarian or human rights crises in one part of the world from national security crises in another." *Reuters*



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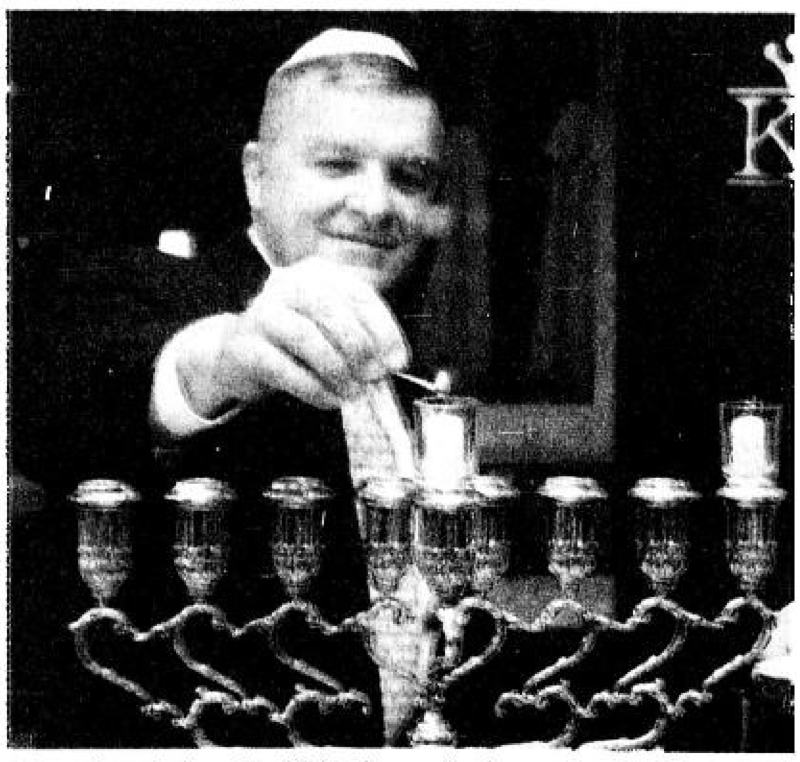


US mediator Anthony Zinni lights the candle of a menorah during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem Dec. 9. The lighting of the menorah, also known as the festival of lights, begins an eight-day commemoration of a Jewish uprising in the second century B.C. against the Greek-Syrian kingdom. AP

Peace broker gives Mideast enemies deadline to shape up

JERUSALEM—The Middle East peace process was under new pressure on Monday after US special envoy Anthony Zinni—frustrated at massive violence that has dogged his two-week peace mission—gave Israel and the Palestinians a 48-hour deadline to shape up or see him quit.

Zinni delivered the warning at US-mediated Palestinian-Israeli security talks Sunday, after a new Palestinian suicide bombing in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

Israel threatened "hard" retaliation to the bombing as its warplanes continued circling key security targets of the Palestinian Authority.

Zinni said "if there isn't substantial progress in the next 48 hours" he would go back to Washington, an Israeli official close to the security talks said, while a Palestinian security official stressed the warning to halt violence applied to both sides.

As the US engaged in hard talk, European Union foreign ministers, were expected on Monday to issue a call for the fight for security and the political process to go hand in hand, a position in opposition to that of Washington.

Zinni was sent by Washington to defuse the Middle East crisis that has left more than 1,060 people dead since September 2000 and threatened to boil over into an all-out war over the past week.

Some 22 people were injured in the suicide attack in a Haifa bus station during morning rush-hour on Sunday, exactly a week after another kamikaze from the radical Islamic group Hamas killed 15 people on a bus in the city.

Sunday's bomber was shot dead by Israeli police as he tried to set off a second device, a police spokesperson said.

Despite Palestinian condemnation of the suicide bombing, Israel threatened to take matters into its own hands, blaming Arafat for slackness and accusing his security forces of conspiring with "terrorists."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held a security Cabinet meeting late Sunday which adopted a series of operational decisions for a riposte to Palestinian violence, Israeli public radio reported without giving further details.

No one claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombing but Palestinian security sources identified the man as Islamic Jihad member Nimr Abu Seifein, 20, from a village in the northern West Bank.

Meanwhile, four Palestinian militant groups announced on Sunday a decision to suspend suicide attacks in Israel from Dec. 10 until next weekend's expected end to the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, according to a statement received by AFP.

The statement was signed by the armed wings of Islamic radicals Hamas and its smaller counterpart Islamic Jihad, as well as two offshoots of Arafat's Fatah movement, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Return Brigades.

Palestinian police say they have arrested more than 180 militants, including 17 on a list of more than 30 submitted by Israel through Zinni. *AFP*

Nepal Army kills 50 Maoist rebs

KATMANDU—The Royal Nepalese Army foiled a bid by Maoist rebels to destroy a communication tower in the remote mountains of midwest Nepal and killed at least 50 rebels, the defense ministry said Sunday.

Four soldiers were also killed and eight wounded in Saturday night's fierce gunbattle at Rammate village, about 400 km west of Nepal's capital, Katmandu.

The rebels fled the scene after 7 hours of gunbattle, said Bhola Silwal, a defense ministry spokesperson.

"There are at least 50 bodies scattered around the tower, but the number of rebel casualties could be lot more," Silwal said.

More than 300 Maoist guerrillas and 80 security force personnel have been killed in just two weeks of rebel attacks and fierce retaliatory operations by the army. About 200 rebels have been arrested.

The military started raids on rebel targets after King Gyanendra declared a state of emergency on Nov. 26 and ordered the Royal Nepalese Army to act against the rebels.

The emergency followed the rebels' decision to end a four-month ceasefire and launch a series of attacks on government and security targets in this Himalayan kingdom. *AP*

Ebola outbreak kills 7 in Gabon

GENEVA—An outbreak of fever in Gabon has been confirmed as the deadly disease Ebola and seven people reportedly have died from it, the World Health Organization said Sunday.

"It's been confirmed by a laboratory in Gabon," WHO spokesperson Gregory Hartl said. "We've had reports that seven people have died."

The Ebola virus causes one of the most virulent known diseases, resulting in death in 50 percent to 90 percent of clinical cases.

The last documented outbreak of Ebola was in Uganda last year, where 224 people—including health workers—were killed by the disease, WHO said. Gabon was last afflicted in an outbreak in 1996-97 that killed 45 of the 60 people infected.

Hartl said WHO had sent out one team to help the western African coastal nation cope with the disease and that a second team of four specialists would leave Geneva for Gabon on Monday.

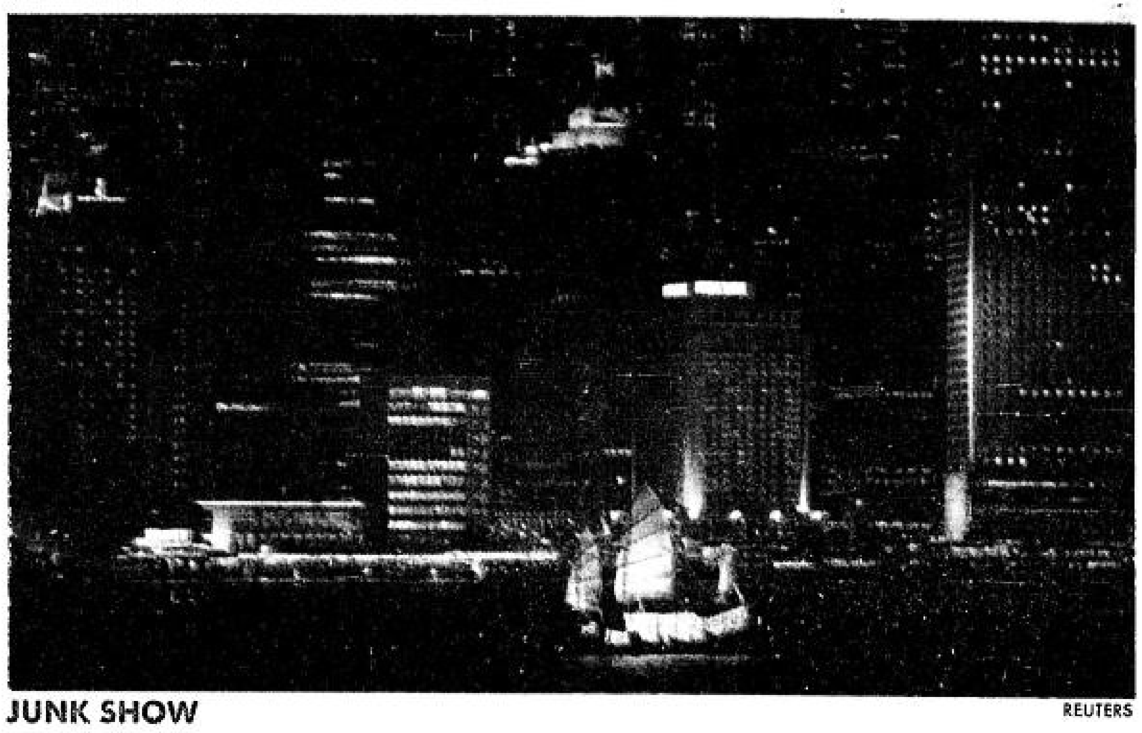
The outbreak is in remote Ogooue Ivindo province in northeastern Gabon, he said.

"We've had very little information," Hartl said.

A laboratory in Franceville, also in eastern Gabon, confirmed the disease, he said.

A team from the Gabon Ministry of Health and the International Center of Medical Research in Franceville went to the province last week when they first received reports that the outbreak might be Ebola, Hartl added.

Hartl said last Friday that there were unconfirmed reports of a possible outbreak in Congo, which is near Gabon, although the two countries have no common borders. *AP*



JUNK SHOW REUTERS

A Chinese junk sails through Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor on the evening of Dec. 9. The event, symbolizing the territory riding high on the waves, is part of a promotion aimed at boosting the tourism industry. Junks were popular before this former fishing port developed into a regional financial hub.

Burma ignores global calls for Suu Kyi's release

BANGKOK—Burma's military junta said it is committed to creating a "functioning democracy" in the country, but ignored an international plea to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi who marks the 10th anniversary of her Nobel Peace prize in house arrest.

In a statement dated Sunday, a spokesperson of the military regime said the government "warmly appreciates the opinions, concerns and interests of its partners in the international community" about democracy in Burma, also known as Myanmar.

In any case, the government "believes that all of us are on the winning side already since we all have the common objective of creating Burma (into) a functioning democracy," said the statement faxed to The Associated Press in Bangkok.

The statement was in response to a request for the regime's reaction to a petition signed by former Nobel Peace laureates urging the junta to free Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 prize for her nonviolent struggle to bring democracy in her country.

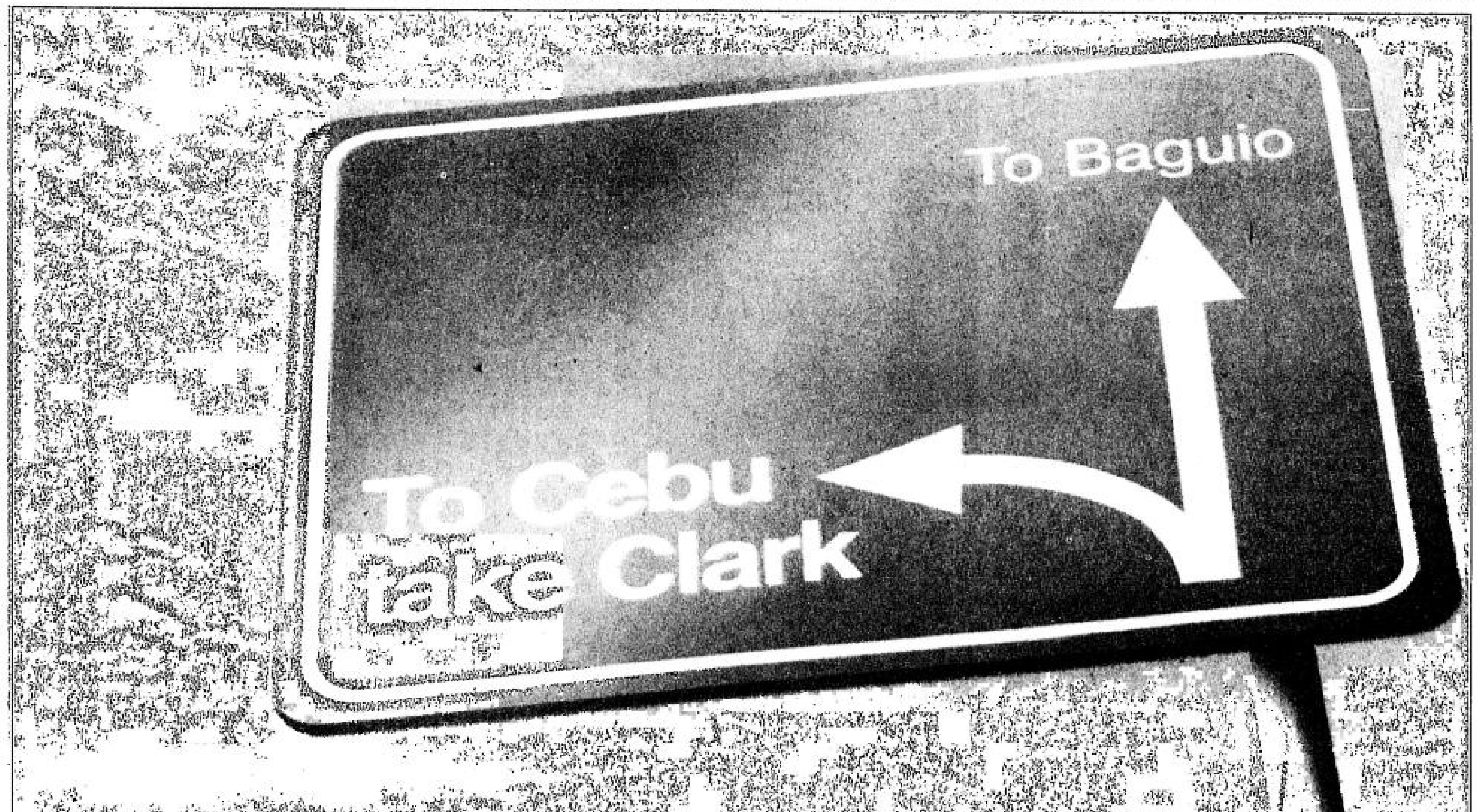
However, the Burma statement made no mention of Suu Kyi or her house arrest.

Instead, it noted that while there was no cooperation in the past between the government and Suu Kyi's National League Party due to "misunderstanding," that is not the case today.

"Today, we are all in the process of joining hands, walking on the same path toward our common objective," the statement said, referring to closed-door national reconciliation talks between the NLD and the junta going on since September 2000.

No breakthrough has been reported in the talks but authorities have released scores of NLD members from jail.

The Nobel Peace Prize, which holds its 100th award ceremony Monday, was celebrated in Oslo, Norway, last week with festivities including a three-day symposium of former laureates who signed a letter Saturday calling for Suu Kyi's release. *AP*



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Turner Prize stirs up usual controversy

BY ED CROPLEY

LONDON—Britain's Turner Prize, awarded to Martin Creed for his bare room with a light that switches on and off every five seconds, stirred up its traditional storm of controversy on Monday.

Creed, who received the £20,000 ($28,600) modern art prize from pop superstar Madonna on Sunday, once said "I don't think of myself as an artist." Many exhibition-goers at London's Tate Britain museum agreed.

David Lee, editor of satirical art magazine "The Jackdaw," was less than impressed.

"Last year, the Tate was scraping the barrel. This year they are scraping the scrapings. A light being switched on and off is not a good work of art," Lee told the Times newspaper.

Outside the historic gallery on the banks of the River Thames, a group of traditionalists called "The Stuckists" made their feelings known with their own makeshift, modernist masterpiece—flashing handheld torches on and off.

Stuckist founder Charles Thomson said Creed's work, the latest in a long line of winning works to outrage the establishment, exuded "outstanding stupidity" and called for the competition organizers to step down.

"This has gone beyond a joke . . . The only people who cannot see how ridiculous it is are the organizers themselves," Thomson said.

Previous winners have included an elephant dung painting, pickled animal carcasses, and an unmade bed covered in condoms, soiled knickers and champagne corks.

This year's competing offerings were little different—a video about two gay cowboys, a dusty storeroom piled high with junk and a film of a disheveled alcoholic being brought a cup of tea by his wife.

The competition invariably stirs controversy but the uproar started even earlier than normal when Madonna decided to swear on live television, prompting Channel Four to issue a speedy apology to viewers for her "strong language."

The five Turner judges noted the "deftness and breadth" of Creed's recent work, which includes crumbled up bits of paper and a piece of Blu-tac gummed onto a wall. *Reuters*

An actual size replica executed in canvass in the lobby of Makati Medical Center was the first project of the Society, with the prayer that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn, be the Patroness of a hostipal whose policy is respect for the life of the unborn.

A Celebration

In obedience to the Papal Bull of Pope Pius XI, dated July 16, 1935

Declaring

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Principal Patroness of the Philippine Islands

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The Greatest Marian Apparition

THE GREATEST MIRACLE BY FAR

Our Lady appeared in Guadalupe, Mexico, in 1531 to Juan Diego and left an imprint of her image on the tilma made of rough ayate fibers; and both tilma and image have miraculously endured up to the present time.

While the continuing miracles in Lourdes are in the curing of the sick, the continuing miracle in Guadalupe is the image of Our Lady on the tilma... just like the continuing miracle of the Shroud.

MIRACULOUS CONVERSIONS

In no other Marian apparition do we see a tidal wave of coversions to the Faith. It is said that while Europe lost 5 million Catholics to the Reformation, in Mexico, Our Lady won 9 million to the Faith. The tilma alone caused the coversions without the need for missionaries.

And so it is said that in all Marian apparitions, only the seer sees Our Lady; but in Guadalupe, all can see her.

THE MIRACULOUS IMPRINTING

The manner in which the image was imprinted on the tilma is as miraculous as the way the image of Christ was imprinted on the Shroud. In both, the discoloration of the fibrils is very superficial; and the manner in which the image was imprinted is unknown to modern science even today. And yet even if the image is superficial, no amount of kissing and rubbing with handkerchiefs and even with hard objects like crucifixes and swords has diminished her vivid colors and beauty. The imprint has remained exactly as it was for 470 years.

In Guadalupe, Our Lady's face, the way she looked when the angel Gabriel appeared to her, when Joseph took her to wife, when Christ first opened his eyes to gaze at her... that is what appeared miraculously on the tilma... how she looked then and how she looks today in heaven.

HER EYES ARE BREATHING

In 1926, playing with a magnifying glass, someone chanced over Our Lady's eyes and noticed the image of a man in Her right cornea. It was the face and shoulder of a man grabbing his beard in consternation. Later, the same image was noticed in both eyes. This finding strengthened the fact that the ayate tilma served as a mirror film reflecting and imprinting the true, real, physical image of Holy Mary... which makes the miracle more astounding.

Using more sophisticated ophthalmology equipment, another image was found -- a half-naked Indian sitting on the floor the way Aztecs used to sit, his eyes enlarged with awe and Juan Diego reflected in the pupil of his eyes! Then the image of Fray Gonzalez, the interpreter; then the image of Juan Diego, with a big hook nose and prominent cheekbones, holding the tilma but with no image on it yet. There in Mary's eyes is also a black woman with piercing eyes looking over the shoulder of Juan Diego; and the bust of a bearded man. There is also a whole family, a young woman with delicate features, apparently controlling some children and carrying a baby on her back and probably her husband talking to her; then another man and woman... all found in her irises which are less that 7-8 millimeters and imprinted on a coarse material-this increases the awesomeness of the miracle of the tilma. To see more than 10 people in an iris can be duplicated by a photographic reproduction today, but not by any reproduction in a coarse cloth, much less, in a painting.

But the tilma is more than a modern photographic reproduction; because Her eyes on the tilma are unlike a picture. Her eyes have brilliance and depth and are hollow and three-dimensional. The formation of the images in her eyes follows the law of optics in a real, live, human eye... not in the picture of an eye.

Staring at her eyes is like viewing the eyes of a live person. "Please look up," the ophthalmologist inadvertently muttered while examining her eyes.

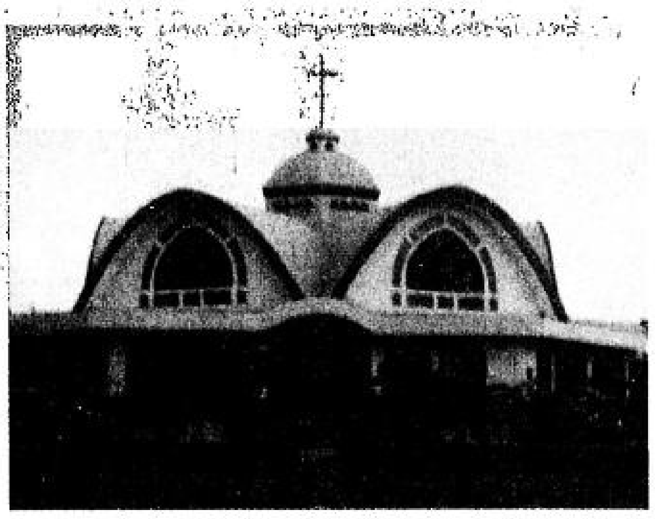
This is further proof that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed to heaven body and soul. Her eyes as reflected on the tilma are the eyes of a live human being. Angels and saints in heaven do not have corneas because they are all spirit... except for Jesus Christ and probably St. Joseph and John the Baptist.

CONCLUSION

The apparition of Our Lady in Guadalupe is important to both God and man. So God made it a point to let her come IN PERSON, in her glorified body, to pose for a picture, her gift to all men, an image of her TRUE FACE, the face of OUR MOTHER, the same face that beholds the triune God in heaven.

We live in very evil times. The Holy Father has called for the evangelization of non-Catholics and re-evangelization of Catholics. The Church is experiencing a great apostasy within her ranks and losing many of her children. Just for one last time... let us display the true face of our Mother on the tilma and make her known in many lands; and maybe repeat that avalanche of conversions to the Faith. For when man calls upon her name, as she promised, "You shall be my children and I shall be your merciful mother."

His holiness Pope John Paul II blessing the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Asia and the Philippines in a private audience with Former Justice Jose Y. Feria, Chairman of the Society of Holy Mary of Guadalupe, Inc. and wife Chit, on June 24, 1994. Partly hidden behind the Holy Father is CARDINAL VIDAL.



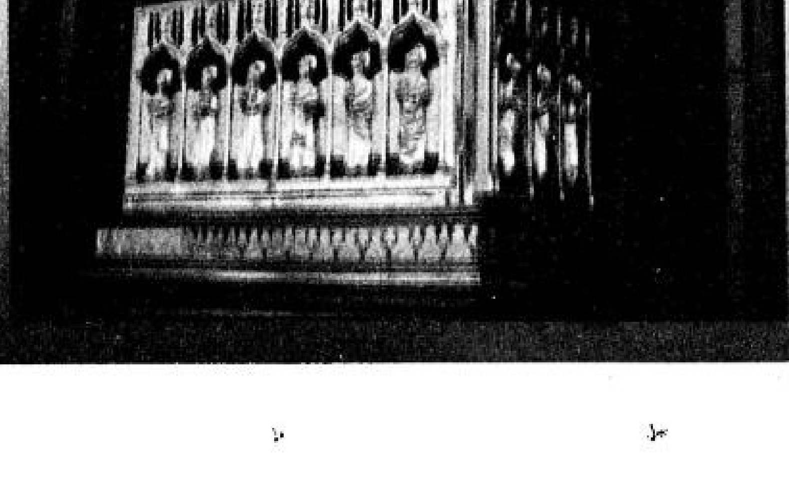
The private Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe that houses the Pilgrim Image for Asia blessed by Pope John Paul II on June 24, 1994. The Oratory was blessed with a High Pontifical Mass on Dec. 12, 1998. This is the main oratory among the five other oratories in the Lay Monastic Community of CARYANA.

In gratitude for the favor received from the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the miraculous birth of Juan Diego (left) shown with his brothers Dominic and Joseph, the Society of Holy Mary of Guadalupe, Inc. was established to propagate devotion to her who said: "Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Do you need anything else?"

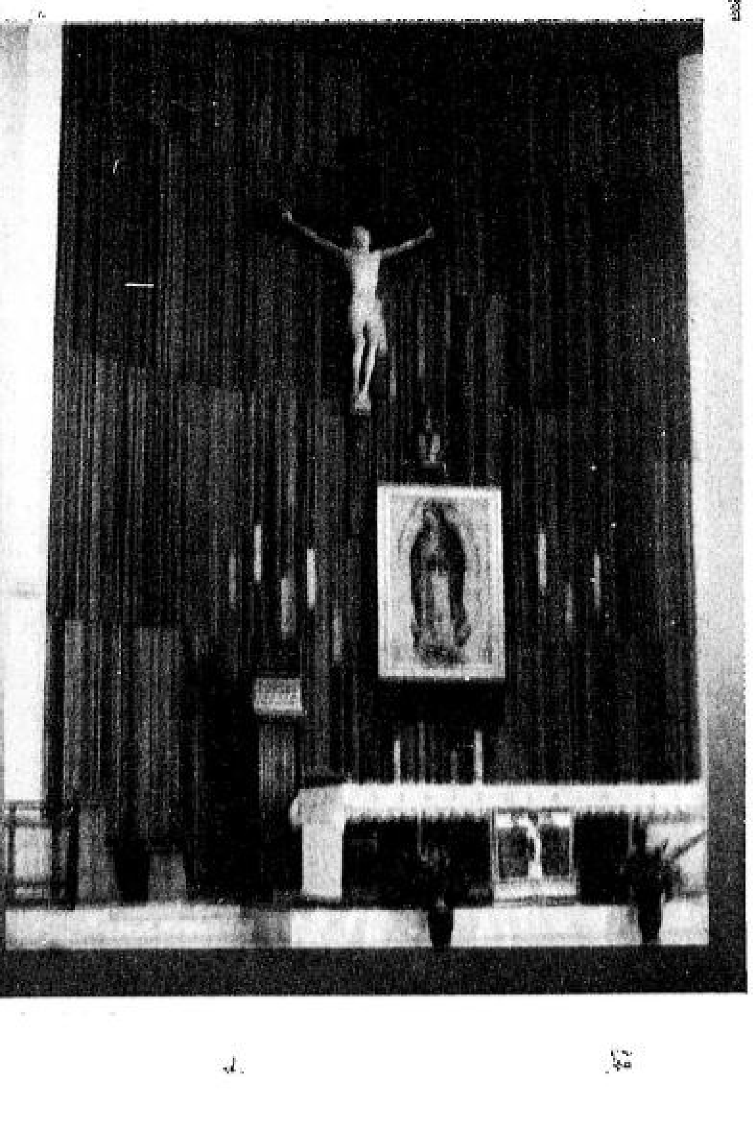
THE WEBSITE of the WINNOWING FAN and the SOCIETY OF HOLY MARY OF GUADALUPE, INC. is - http://www.mailstation.net/caryana. The Website contains in summarized and simplified form the writings of the Fathers of the Church, the Doctors and Saints of the Catholic Church on the Spiritual Life. It contains all the articles published in the WINNOWING FAN, such as those on Abortion, Death, Divorce, Parents and Children. It also includes the articles in The Guadalupe Series such as Death Penalty, The State of the Catholic Church and Family Planning; and special features like "A Curriculum on Spiritual Formation for Candidates to the Priesthood."

One among the four stain glass windows depicting the four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Tabernacle of the Twelve Apostles in the main altar, crafted in Spain.



The main altar with the Pilgrim Image for Asia blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.



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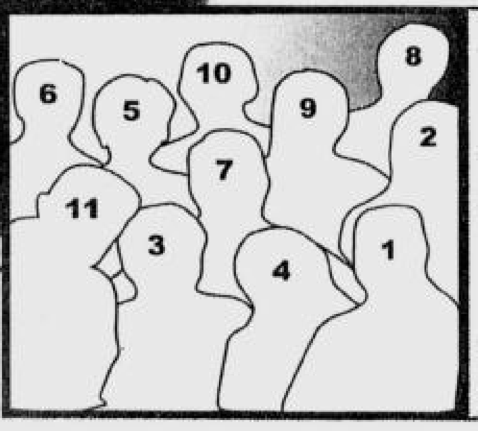

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3 - Josiah L. Go (business education)
4 - Samira A. Gutoc (youth leadership in social & cultural dev't)
5 - Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel (peace advocacy)
6 - Juan Sajid L. Imao (arts - sculpture)
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New threats force Sulu villagers to flee homes

JOLO, Sulu—Hundreds of residents fled their homes Sunday night in Kasulutan Village and nearby areas here, amid threats of renewed attacks by armed men loyal to former ARMM Gov. and Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari.

The evacuees said it was the military who told them to leave their villages due to intelligence reports that Misuari loyalists have regrouped and were set to repeat their Nov. 19 siege of the 104th Army brigade headquarters.

Kasulutan Village is located behind the Army headquarters and was the worst hit in the Nov. 19 attack that left some 120 people dead and scores injured.

Supt. Muibuddin Esmail, Jolo police chief, said that although the reported threats could not be confirmed, the police remained on high alert.

"Whether the threats are real or just rumors, we cannot take chances. We have to be ready," Esmail said.

This development came even as the Peace Center of the Notre Dame of Jolo College marked its third anniversary Monday, and Sulu residents are preparing to *observe Eid'l Fitri* or Hari-Raya Puasa, which ends the fasting month of Ramadan on Dec. 16.

The military under brigade commander Col. Romeo Tolentino was able to overrun the main camp of Misuari loyalists in Silangkan, Parang, after two weeks of continuous pursuit operations backed by helicopter gunships.

The camp was found abandoned and the nearby areas evacuated by residents who fled the shelling and bombardment.

The house of Misuari's in-laws and a two-story concrete house that he was building for his wife Tarhata were almost destroyed by the bombings, along with government construction equipment that were supposed to be used for a circumferential road.

Nearby was a causeway, also constructed with government equipment and materials that served as Misuari's private wharf from where, according to sources, he sailed to Malaysia before the Nov. 19 attacks.

The same facility was to have been used for the transport of supplies to the camp. Silangkan is a coastal poblacion with a wide shoreline.

The same sources said that Misuari's followers, together with Abu Sayyaf elements, have regrouped elsewhere to prepare for another attack on Jolo town.

The renewed threats came even as these combined forces, now known as the "Mutallah" issued feelers for negotiations, at the same time warning of more violence if the government refused to meet their demand for negotiations. *Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GRAFT CASES

500 stage rally in Ilocos Sur to back Chavit

VIGAN CITY—At least 500 Ilocos Sur officials and supporters of former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson staged a rally in front of the provincial capitol on Monday to show support for Singson who is now facing three graft cases before the Ombudsman.

"They are lying. All the (accusations in the) cases they have filed before the Ombudsman are not true," Singson told the crowd, referring to the three graft cases filed by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance.

Singson's supporters were led by incumbent Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson, provincial board members and more than 10 mayors led by Santa Mayor Jesus Bueno Jr., president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur chapter.

On Nov. 21, the Sisa filed graft charges against Singson and five Ilocos Sur officials in connection with the alleged "ghost" purchase of a backhoe loader worth P9.5-million last year.

More charges

On Nov. 26, the same group filed charges against Singson for the purchase by the Ilocos Sur government of an allegedly overpriced parcel of land for P26 million in 1998.

On Dec. 6, Sisa filed charges against Singson and three Ilocos Sur officials for the alleged technical malversation of a P30-million fund from tobacco excise taxes.

Singson professed innocence before his supporters and stressed that it is former President Joseph Estrada who is behind "these moves to discredit me."

He also accused his former political protégé and losing gubernatorial candidate Efren Rafanan of supporting Sisa.

Members of the LMP-Ilocos Sur chapter signed a manifesto declaring "full support for and overwhelming confidence in" Singson.

The LMP chapter said "the inimitable and incomparable heroic deeds and acts manifested by (Singson) are now the envy of ambitious persons."

Tactics

The manifesto said Singson's detractors are using all possible means to "besmirch, destroy and taint (Singson's) credibility with the agenda of sowing confusion (and) doubt among the people of Ilocos Sur."

"The detractors of the former governor are now discounting his deeds and accomplishments for the province and for the nation in more than three decades in service to favor some small things that are still unfounded," Bueno told the INQUIRER.

Singson's supporters carried streamers saying "Erap Connection Get Out," "*Magkano* Share *ninyo sa* Erap Billions?" "Sisaw—Save Ilocos Sur Kadagiti Salawasaw (Sisaw—Save Ilocos Sur From Liars)."

But Sisa remained unfazed by the show of support for Singson.

"No amount of rallies can destroy our thrust to seek the truth and (attain) justice," said Nestor Segismundo, Sisa president.

Lawyer Estelita Cordero, Sisa counsel, assailed Singson for supposedly organizing the rally.

"If it is true, as he claims, that there is no basis for the complaints, why did he organize (the rally) and spend millions of pesos (for it)?" asked Cordero.

"(It was a very) pathetic sight of a warlord being in a rally to support himself," she added.

Rafanan denied the accusations of Singson that he is behind Sisa. "They have no other issues to raise against me except this and some personal attacks," Rafanan said. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Tribal groups assail bias for foreigners

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A coalition of indigenous people's groups has assailed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' alleged bypassing of *lumads* in the Caraga Region over the implementation of a multimillion-peso reforestation project on their ancestral land claims.

The group also lambasted Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez of being insensitive over the plight of the *lumads* who would be sidelined once the implementation of the project starts.

Victoriano Vidal, chief executive officer of the Tribal Coalition for Mindanao (Tricom), in a statement said that Alvarez was favoring foreign investors to the detriment of the indigenous people in the region.

Alvarez is to formally launch his program making Caraga Region as the Timber Corridor of the Philippines on Saturday in Butuan City.

The DENR had chosen the region as the most suitable area for the project because of its moderate rainfall and ideal topography. Also, the region is home to at least 80 percent of Mindanao's forest cover, which makes it the country's green corridor.

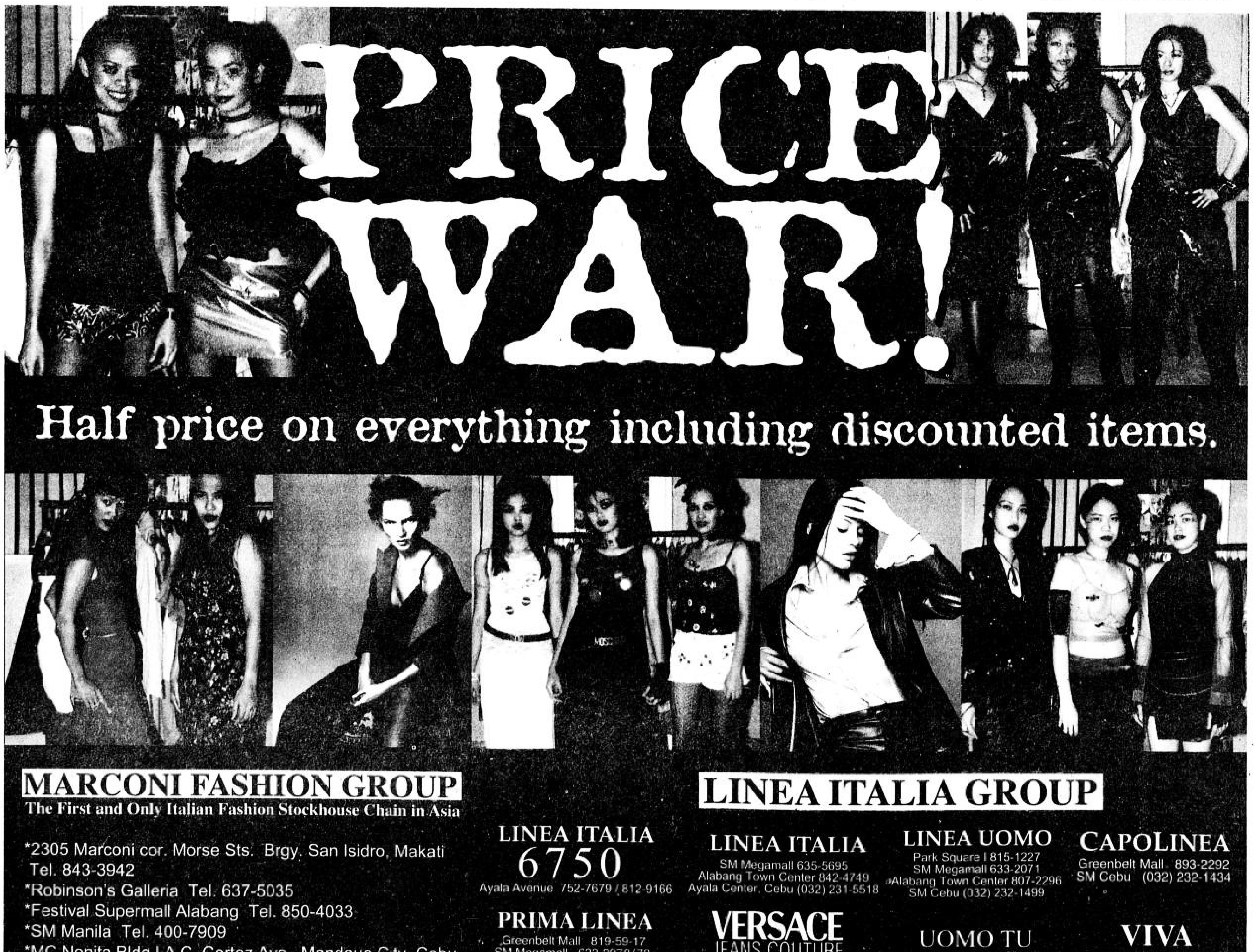
The group has vowed to block Alvarez's confirmation before the Commission on Appointments and would stage a protest action upon his arrival in Butuan City on Friday.

The foreign firms that would implement the reforestation project would be from New Zealand, Singapore and Finland which have already committed about $800 million to the project to reforest about 650,000 hectares of forested lands in the Caraga Region. The greater part of the area being claimed by the *lumads* as their ancestral land.

But Alvarez was unfazed over the grievances of the *lumads*, saying that the project will generate about 30,000 jobs and that the *lumad* will be given priority in the hiring of workers.

"What we have in mind is to maximize use of our forest resources using modern technology and managerial know-how all aimed at increasing wealth for the greater majority of our people," he said over an interview with Radyo Bombo.

Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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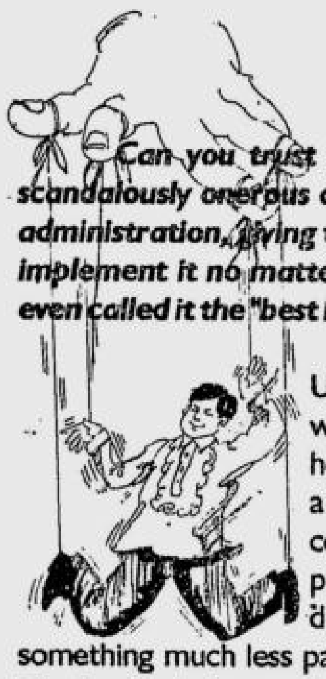


Can you trust one who has chosen to protect a scandalously onerous contract entered into by the ousted administration, giving the excuse that he is duty-bound to implement it no matter how unfair it is to his people? He even called it the "best BOT we ever had."

Unbelievable! You can only have it two ways: He is either stupid or corrupt. If he doesn't even know that he can throw a contract away when it is bad for the country, then stupidity explains it. If he pretends not to be aware, he must be driven – along with an unseen hand – by something much less patriotic. In our book, it's called graft. That's why he is now being investigated by the Ombudsman and both houses of Congress.

Can you trust the word of someone who, when asked by the President, did not tell the whole truth if the operations of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (PIATCO) would adversely affect the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA)?

PIATCO CONTRACT

At ceremonies in Pampanga renaming Clark Airport to DMIA, the President was asked by reporters about the PIATCO contract limiting the growth of the former Clark Airport. In reply, the President cited the assurance of Mr. Alvarez that it would not. But, he conveniently omitted contract provisions that limit the DMIA to 850,000 passengers for the next 25 years. He was silent about PIATCO fining the government P380 for every additional passenger when DMIA exceeds the 850,000 limit. That's P380 million when DMIA-bound passengers reach one million (over the 850,000 cap).

Can you trust a public official who coddles a favored concessionaire of the previous administration? The very people we got rid of less than a year ago?

Who is Mr. Alvarez serving — the new Macapagal-Arroyo government, or the cronies of the Erap regime? The substantially amended contract shows the telltale signs of economic sabotage — the renowned specialty of the previous administration. The contract provisions will burden the government with enormous costs to support an unnecessary facility, aside from requiring government to assume PIATCO's liabilities, and pay needless penalties. One conclusion is clear: Mr. Alvarez and the contract have no place in this new government.

Can you trust a public official who questioned the legality of a multi-million dollar contract — and after being awarded a juicy concession — not only kept quiet about it, but now staunchly defends it?

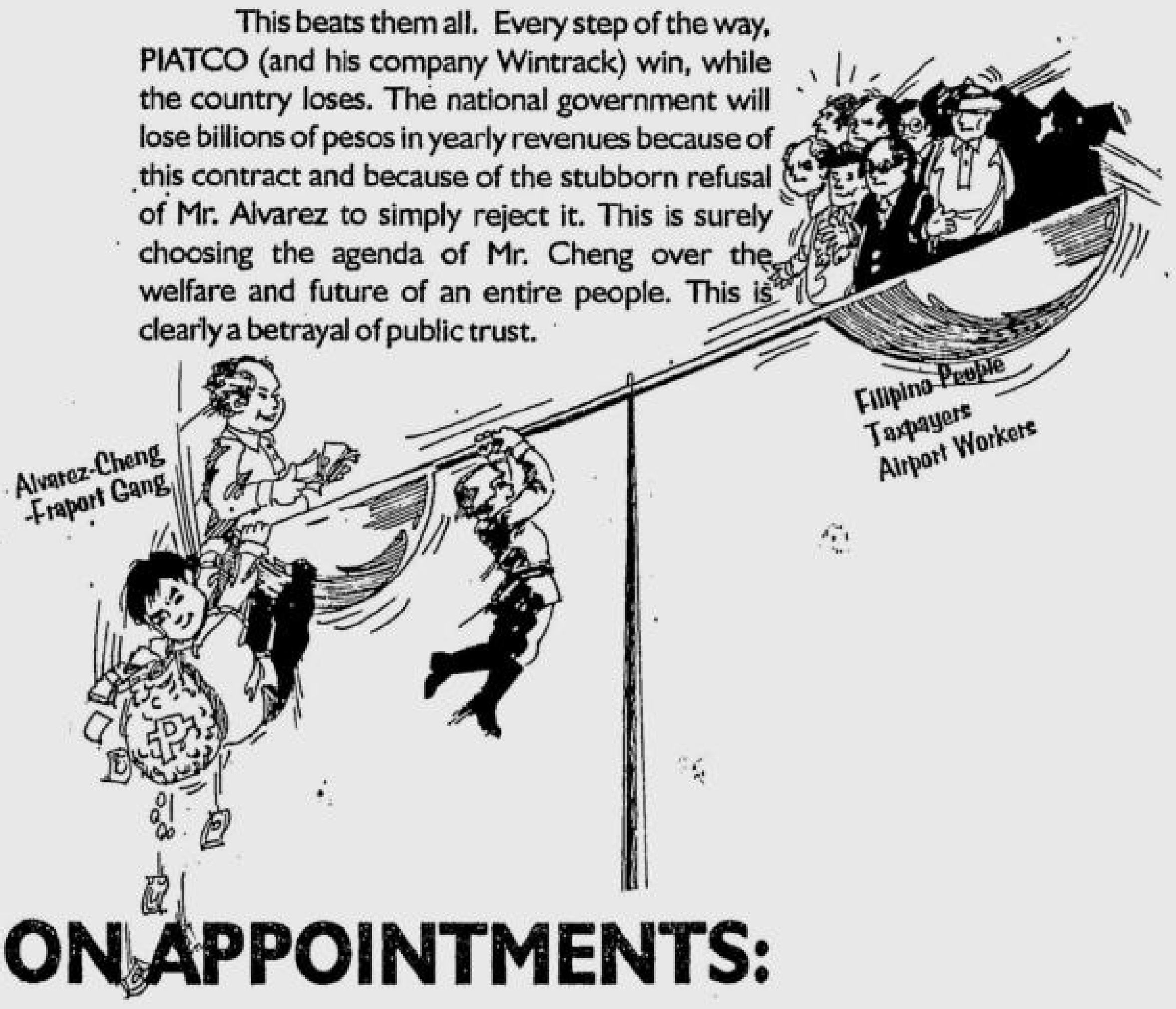
When Mr. Alvarez was still Congressman, he questioned the PIATCO contract. Soon, thereafter, his company, Wintrack — capitalized at P206,250 and without any track record — was awarded contracts worth over P300 million. After that, Mr. Alvarez did not pursue his inquiry any further, and even declared that "it is the best deal the Government has ever entered into."

Can we feel safe with a bureaucrat who does not care about the safety of our lives and homes, who is insensitive to the complaints of thousands of workers who will lose their jobs?

The residents of Pasay and Parañaque have gone to the streets to stop Mr. Alvarez from his plan to demolish houses to make way for expanded facilities for PIATCO. They also said that packing in airlines to carry ten million passengers in a single runway is dangerous. Also, because of the PIATCO monopoly, thousands of airport workers, including employees belonging to the Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (PALEA), will be displaced. Mr. Alvarez remains heartless.

Can you trust a so-called leader who exchanged the entire welfare of the country, and sold his own people down the drain only to satisfy the requirements of an onerous contract, and to please his partners, so-called businessman Jeffrey Cheng, and Germany's Fraport?

This beats them all. Every step of the way, PIATCO (and his company Wintrack) win, while the country loses. The national government will lose billions of pesos in yearly revenues because of this contract and because of the stubborn refusal of Mr. Alvarez to simply reject it. This is surely choosing the agenda of Mr. Cheng over the welfare and future of an entire people. This is clearly a betrayal of public trust.



To THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS:

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DON'T BE A PARTY TO THE BETRAYAL OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE!

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/11/01

₱1.3B IN EARNINGS

Probe NGO bonds, Senate urged

By Rocky Nazareno

OPPOSITION Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta has asked the Senate to investigate the issuance of P35-billion worth of Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or Peace bonds, by the Bureau of the Treasury that is expected to reap P1.38 billion in profits for an umbrella organization of non-government groups.

Oreta filed late last week Senate Resolution 193 directing the Senate finance committee to look into the "hush-hush" manner by which the treasury issued P10 billion in "zero coupon" bonds that the government would redeem after 10 years for P35 billion.

Finance committee chair John Osmeña earlier scored Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho for the issuance of the bonds, which stand to benefit Code-NGO, which has Camacho's sister, Marissa, for one of its leaders.

Oreta said the Senate inquiry would "be able to mull the legal and ethical ramifications of the issuance of the Peace bonds that could have earned P10 billion for the cash-starved Macapagal administration."

The Malabon lawmaker said issuing government bonds to benefit Code-NGO "clearly contravenes and violates the spirit of the Constitution wherein no money shall be paid out of the Treasury except pursuant to an appropriation made by law."

On top of the highly irregular sale, Oreta noted that the entire bond issue was awarded to a single commercial bank—the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.—at an interest rate of 12.75 percent, although other bidders reportedly offered rates as low as 11.5 percent.

"This transaction was largely kept under wraps and had formally come out in the open only after Code-NGO admitted its participation in the Peace bonds in full-page newspaper advertisements," said Oreta in a press statement.

She said Code-NGO admitted raking in P1.3 billion "without risking any capital from the purchase by using RCBC as an intermediary or financier."

"Code-NGO was quick to add that their earnings from bond issue would be used to bankroll its anti-poverty initiatives and that it was an 'out-of-the-box' approach to allow private groups to tap the capital market in raising funds for their projects," Aquino-Oreta said.

She said that while Code-NGO's social commitment was laudable, "it was highly irregular to favor a private institution over any of the other government entities by way of a bond float that easily earned P1.3 billion for its beneficiary."

Aquino-Oreta likewise questioned why the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in a ruling issued last May 13, classified the Peace bonds as "certificates of indebtedness" and not as deposit substitutes.

This exempted the sale from capital gains tax and withholding tax.

"This means the Code-NGO, which did not risk a single centavo when it acquired its P1.3-billion windfall, won't have to pay the government anything once they resell the bonds to private investors," Aquino-Oreta said.

She added that the Monetary Board had granted the Peace bonds the status of secondary reserve eligibility which makes them very attractive and viable for banks and investors.

5 suspected kidnap gang members nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Five suspected members of the Sanguile kidnap-for-ransom group, tagged to be behind the abduction of a 63-year-old dentist in General Santos City last week, were arrested by policemen here on Friday morning.

The suspects were identified as the Macayao brothers—Demad, 39; Palma, 23 and Nanding, 22, all of Maitum in Sarangani; Alfredo Kiskisol, 38, of Kiamba, also in Sarangani and Akmad Asnib, 46 of Buluan in Maguindanao.

Davao City police chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia said they were members of the Sanguile Gang, a splinter group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which was believed responsible for the kidnapping of Lourdes Montecillo in the hinterlands of General Santos.

The suspects were arrested on the strength of warrant of arrest issued against them for their involvement in terrorist activities in South Cotabato and General Santos City.

Demad was reported to be facing a multiple murder case in General Santos while Asnib is also facing multiple frustrated homicide in his hometown.

Talomo policemen arrested the five in a checkpoint along MacArthur Highway in Ulas, Davao City Friday morning.

The five were reportedly riding in a Yellow Bus Line utility vehicle from General Santos when arrested by a police team headed by Talomo deputy chief Insp. Pedrito Florentino.

They conducted the inspection following reports that terrorists who are bomb experts planned to sow terror in the city.

He said there is a strong possibility that some of the terrorists have already entered the city a few days ago and brought with them materials to produce explosives.

The arrested suspects are trained in demolition jobs, including the bombing of big buildings.

Garcia said Demad had a warrant of arrest for multiple murder cases in General Santos City, while Asnib is facing multiple frustrated homicide in Buluan, Maguindanao.

Garcia said Demad has been tagged as behind the series of bomb attacks in General Santos City. He was reportedly trained abroad like members of the Abu Sayyaf.

The suspects were on board a bus when they were chanced upon by elements of the Talomo police station on Friday morning.

No illegal items however were found on them when they were frisked by policemen.

Garcia, however, said the three other suspects will be placed under police custody pending further investigation.

Prior to the suspects' capture, the Davao City police was on a heightened alert status, following reports that bandits will launch terrorist attacks in the city. ***Anthony Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Compromise sought on port project

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Mayor Agustin Perdices is asking the Philippine Ports Authority and its critics to come up with a compromise deal on the controversial port reclamation and fastferry terminal projects here.

The mayor told a news conference that the PPA and the opponents of the project should meet halfway so that the PPA could go ahead with its port development plan.

Perdices said he has asked the Silliman University to move back its fence along Silliman Avenue by five meters to widen the road and make room for parking space.

"If Silliman would push back by five meters, we may be able to ask the PPA to push back the reclamation so as not to cover Silliman," the mayor said.

Perdices said he relayed his request to the university through Prof. Leonor Briones, chair of the university's board of trustees, last week.

The fastferry terminal and the reclamation projects at the port area are part of the PPA's Port Development Plan, which was ready for implementation in 1997.

But these were opposed by environmentalist groups, saying the reclamation project would badly affect the city's famous landmark, the 800-meter-long Rizal Boulevard that faces the sea.

The project would also destroy corals, which support the subsistence of fishermen living the shoreline of Dumaguete, the project's critics said.

But the PPA said the purpose of the P130 million project is to develop "an antiquated and obsolete port facility."

The proposed terminal would have a facility dedicated to bringing safety and convenience to passengers, the PPA said.

The design presented by the PPA is composed of a berthing space for fastcrafts, a passenger terminal building, and a parking area for vehicles, among other features.

But Governor Arnaiz and Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II said they were both in favor of the PPA plan to develop the port, "if all environmental clearances are secured."

"You can't have everything," Macias said, comparing the process of compromising with the selection of a mate.

"It's like looking for a wife who is rich, beautiful and intelligent, which doesn't happen most of the time. Sometimes, the wife is beautiful but she may have a very bad character," the congressman said.

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Indonesia invites Nur to OIC meet

(From page A1)

But Belkezis said it would be appropriate that the Committee of the Eight discuss issues involving the Muslims of Southern Philippines.

He said the committee could then submit its recommendations to the OIC as whole when the body met for its 29th Assembly this month.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said her administration was ready for renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari and was actually "preparing for his jail cell."

But she clarified that only Malaysian police had cleared the ex-governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao of alleged involvement in the Sipadan kidnappings last year, and that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad had yet to do so.

"What the (Malaysian) police said is that they don't have enough evidence. (The report) doesn't say they cleared him," the President told reporters after addressing the National Socio-Economic Summit at the Manila Hotel. "We also checked with Malaysia last night. That (report) is at the level of the police. That's not the level yet of the prime minister."

Nevertheless, the government is prepared to deal with Misuari in the event that Malaysia deports him, the President said.

Misuari was arrested in Sabah, Malaysia, for unlawful entry on Nov. 24, a few days after his faction in the Moro National Liberation Front attacked the military in Jolo, Sulu. The attack resulted in the deaths of at least 113 people.

Late last Saturday, the Bernama news agency quoted Malaysian Police Inspector General Norian Mai that there was no evidence linking Misuari to the Abu Sayyaf, as the Philippine government had earlier said.

"I already said before that we are ready to ask for Misuari back," the President said. "We are already preparing for his jail cell, his charges and the mode of arresting him."

Thompson Lantion, head of the Philippine National Police's Directorate for Police Community Relations, said "the warrant of arrest will be served" on Misuari on his setting foot on Philippine soil.

The PNP earlier filed rebellion charges against Misuari with the municipal trial court in Jolo, and a warrant was subsequently issued for his arrest.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the government was ready to "throw the book" at Misuari.

"We will prosecute him to the fullest extent (of the law)—if the evidence so warrants," Perez told reporters.

According to Lantion, the Interpol will secure Misuari, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration will process his papers.

However, he said, it had not been decided whether the PNP or the Armed Forces would take custody of the ex-governor.

If the PNP is directed to make the arrest, it will detain Misuari at a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility in Zamboanga or its own detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Lantion said.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said the government had always been ready for Misuari but that Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes had yet to be formally notified that he was cleared of involvement in the Sipadan kidnappings pulled off last year by the Abu Sayyaf.

Commander Global

In Davao del Norte, Nadzmie Saabdulla, the supposed chief of staff of the Abu Sayyaf, said it was true that Misuari had no hand in the kidnappings in the Malaysian island of Sipadan and parts of Mindanao.

"I don't know why the government keeps saying that he's involved in the kidnappings. That's not right," Saabdulla, also known as Commander Global, told reporters in Filipino from his detention cell.

Saabdulla said Misuari only tried to secure the release of the Sipadan hostages and the others when he spoke with Abu Sayyaf leaders in Sulu and Basilan.

"He wanted to negotiate but many of our commanders did not want to deal with him," Saabdulla said without elaborating.

During the Sipadan crisis, Misuari tried to establish contact with Abu Sayyaf leaders, including the Sulu-based Ghalib Andang or Commander Robot. But he failed in his efforts to secure the release of the hostages, most of them foreigners.

The Abu Sayyaf instead talked with former Malaysian Sen. Sairin Karno and released the hostages on his intervention.

Global, who was arrested in General Santos City for his alleged role in the attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm in May, also took the opportunity to, as he put it, "set the record straight."

He said that while he served as spokesperson for the Abu Sayyaf during the Sipadan crisis, he was not directly involved in the kidnappings.

In Manila, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the Malaysian government's decision to ignore evidence on Misuari's supposed involvement in the Sipadan kidnappings was a "temporary setback."

"But certainly that is not final because Misuari has to answer for his offenses (in the Philippines)," Adan told reporters.

January

Perez said he expected Malaysian authorities to deport Misuari early in January.

"Our recommendation is that Misuari should not be detained in Mindanao," Perez said. "He should be detained in Luzon, and I'm recommending Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija."

Perez also said the ex-governor could not hide behind the protection of the influential OIC. "Our laws are applicable to everyone, regardless of their rank or political belief," he said. "I'm sure the OIC will not condone violation of our laws."

Perez confirmed that the government had yet to receive an official report from Malaysia clearing Misuari of links with the Abu Sayyaf.

"But as to the question of whether he is a terrorist or not, the Malaysian government is not passing judgment on it," Perez said.

The justice secretary also said he had discussed the matter with Ms Macapagal and key PNP and AFP officials. He quoted the latter as saying that they would submit "all affidavits and all evidence" against Misuari "so that we will be ready by the time he (returns)."

Perez said he had designated Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to lead the panel that would evaluate the rebellion complaint against Misuari.

Blowing it

In the House, Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada said the government would have itself to blame if Misuari succeeded in seeking asylum in another country.

"We have all the chance to lay our hands on him but it looks like we are blowing it," Lozada, chair of the House foreign affairs committee, said in a statement.

Lozada urged the Macapagal administration to work for Misuari's deportation to Manila before the prescribed 30-day period lapsed.

He said failure to do so could mean that Misuari would be a free man come Dec. 24 and would then be able to evade prosecution for the MNLF attack last month.

Lozada said Misuari was taking advantage of the government's dilly-dallying on his deportation to prepare his bid for asylum, reportedly in Saudi Arabia.

The President had earlier said she was not bent on having Misuari immediately deported.

But Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta urged Malacañang to bring Misuari home to avoid a diplomatic row with Malaysia and the international Islamic community.

Oreta said Misuari should be made to face charges of rebellion and misappropriation of public funds while ARMM governor.

"Delaying Misuari's return while the government continues to insinuate his liability on several criminal offenses instead of having him repatriated to allow him to have his day in court will not sit well with the OIC," Oreta said, adding:

"Malaysia already wants him deported, and making him stay longer in that country will only strain relations between" the two countries.

Oreta also said Malacañang's "hemming and hawing" on the issue might be misconstrued by the OIC as harassment of the ex-governor and result in a diplomatic row with the powerful body.

Terrorism

Baja said the member-countries of the OIC should not take it against the Philippines if it wanted Misuari included in the international list of terrorists "because they themselves are against terrorism."

The DFA official was reacting to suggestions that the OIC might become more sympathetic to Misuari if he were included in the list.

The MNLF is the representative of the Bangsamoro people in the OIC, which has yet to withdraw its recognition of Misuari as leader of the group.

Thus, Misuari remains the sole representative of the Bangsamoro people in the OIC, where the MNLF enjoys observer status.

Still, Baja said Misuari might no longer enjoy such "high regard" from the Islamic states after "his terrorist adventures."

The DFA yesterday announced that the OIC sent word of its forthcoming meeting in Doha, Qatar, to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"The OIC Committee of Eight may meet in the sidelines to discuss Southern Philippines." Baja said. ***Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac, Martin P. Marfil, Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana***

Security, peace and order top summit

(From page A1)

and development in Mindanao so that it could be converted into the country's food basket.

The summit identified three action areas so as to strengthen security and to promote thepeaceful resolution of conflicts.

- Accelerate the integration of intelligence activities and resources of law enforcement and security agencies; maximize mechanisms to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom groups, drug syndicates, terrorists, smugglers and coup plotters; and improve the reward system for information on these groups;
- mobilize peace and order councils, organize self-defense units and effect citizens' arrest under close supervision of the department of interior and the national police. Intensify efforts to rid the police of scalawags.

The resurgence of criminal activities like kidnapping-for-ransom have soured investor confidence in the country.

"Peace and order is the weakest link. If they didn't shape up, then it's goodbye to investments," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

The rest of the action agenda was divided into the following areas: finance and fiscal measures, agriculture and rural development, trade and industry, tourism-related industries, telecommunications and information technology, labor and employment, infrastructure, housing, education, health and other social services, and good governance.

That peace and order and security topped the summit's action agenda was consistent with Ms Macapagal's earlier observation that her administration was doing everything right except in these areas.

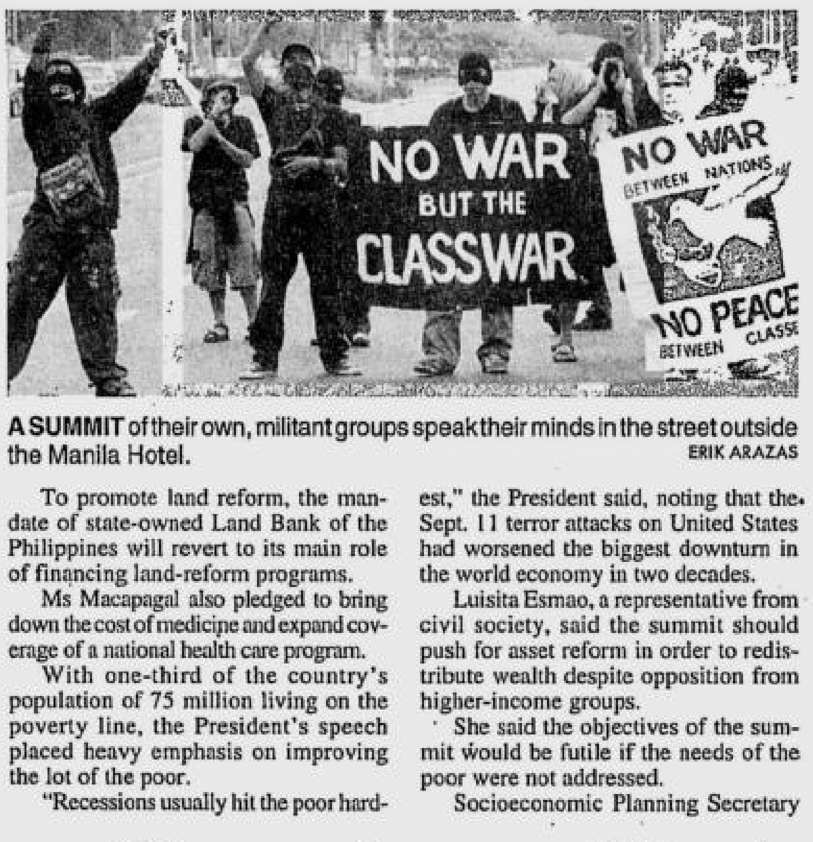
In a speech last week at the Philippine National Police Academy, Ms Macapagal said the country's poor peace and order situation was serving as a "dampener" to economic growth.

Last October, the country was swept by persistent coup rumors.

The President also reiterated her long-standing call for a one-year moratorium on politicking, saying narrow partisan and personal interests must yield to the common good.

Tying taxes to inflation

To reduce poverty, the President said Congress had agreed to a proposal to index excise taxes to inflation, and use the proceeds for housing subsidies for the masses. This means that tax rates should not be greater than the rate of inflation.



A SUMMIT of their own, militant groups speak their minds in the street outside the Manila Hotel. ERIK ARAZAS

To promote land reform, the mandate of state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines will revert to its main role of financing land-reform programs.

Ms Macapagal also pledged to bring down the cost of medicine and expand coverage of a national health care program.

With one-third of the country's population of 75 million living on the poverty line, the President's speech placed heavy emphasis on improving the lot of the poor.

"Recessions usually hit the poor hardest," the President said, noting that the Sept. 11 terror attacks on United States had worsened the biggest downturn in the world economy in two decades.

Luisita Esmao, a representative from civil society, said the summit should push for asset reform in order to redistribute wealth despite opposition from higher-income groups.

She said the objectives of the summit would be futile if the needs of the poor were not addressed.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the government would monitor the accomplishments of the summit within the next six months.

Aside from identifying the timetable of the specific measures, the summit named the responsible senator, congressman and head of an agency or organization so that the measures could be fleshed out.

Homegrown solutions

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said the pact focused on homegrown strengths as the country's export-oriented strategy had become harder to follow amid the global economic slowdown.

"Even as we focus on agricultural and industrial modernization, on resuscitating the financial system and on generally strengthening the Philippine State, our action program acknowledges our continuing need to sharpen our global competitiveness and productivity," Romulo said.

"We will continue to nurture our competitive assets in the form of our adaptable and talented work people. Because of them, the Philippines is ranked No. 1 in the world in knowledge-based jobs," he said.

Miguel Varela, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries president, expressed confidence that the summit would produce concrete results unlike previous summits.

"They are all time-bound and there are specific purposes. So this is going to work out. A roadmap to recovery is in our hands," Varela said.

"Maybe the media should make a score-card to measure who's gonna perform or not," said Luis Lorenzo Jr., co-chair of the summit's agriculture and rural development sector and chief executive officer of Lapanday Holdings.

Jon Ramon Aboitiz, chair of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, said the plans could be put into action.

"I hope the program would address the total infrastructure not just the ports. We have to bring down the costs," Aboitiz said.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Blas Ople sought the full implementation of the recommendations of the economic summit to boost the economy and produce new jobs for the people.

"I suggest we organize a standing committee with representatives from both the executive and legislative branches, as well as from the private sector, to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this summit," Ople said.

Ople was the proponent of the summit and was co-chair of its executive committee. ***With reports from AP and Cynthia D. Balana***

Prelude to 'Paskong walang Glorya,' say militant groups

(From page A1)

the protesters at around noon.

They allegedly punched a chief inspector of the Western Police District during the scuffle. The four men were later released.

Bayan members also launched street protests in the cities of Angeles, Baguio, Naga, Tacloban, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos. A rally was also held in Isabela.

Bayan said the picket outside the Manila Hotel was a prelude to a "Paskong Walang Glorya."

Summit led by the elite

"This summit is a monument to failure because it is done by the same elite that has failed to deliver progress, to grant decent wages, to provide land to peasants, to stem corruption and to stamp corporate takeover of basic social services utilities," Bayan spokesperon Renato Reyes Jr. said.

"This is not about the people's salvation but about economic *sabit*," he said.

Elmer Labog, KMU secretary general, said his group was rejecting agreements reached at the summit because "only capitalists and foreigners will benefit from these."

He said the summit "did not even tackle the most pressing economic issues" like the workers' demand for a wage hike and an end to contractualization.

"She says she would provide lower prices for medicine. But how could we buy medicine when we cannot even afford to put food on our tables," Labog said.

Delegates to the summit signed an Industrial Peace Accord and a Socio-Economic Pact.

But Labog hit the signatories, branding those who represented labor sector as "fakes."

Greater disaster

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna said the Socio-Economic Pact and the action agenda forged during the summit would "spell greater disaster" for the Filipino people.

Despite the summit, Filipinos will still have "a bleak Christmas and a miserable New Year."

"The summit is a deceitful affair," Ocampo said, saying its "fixation" on the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States obscured the grave crisis resulting from Ms Macapagal's globalization policy.

For his part, Rep. Crispin Beltran, also of Bayan Muna, said the summit would yield measures "more inimical" to the people.

Beltran said the summit was meant to project the image that the business community and civil society were still supporting the President.

"In the face of the relentless scandals hounding her and her administration, the President wants to convince the business sector to stand by her," he said.

No stability

In Mariveles, Bataan, leaders of a leftist bloc holding its first national congress said the economic summit would not usher in stability for the Macapagal administration.

"The political and economic crises (in the country) will intensify in terms that are worse than we can imagine," said Sonia Soto, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya.

The KPD said the rival political factions discontented with "shrinking spoils" would go on exploiting the extra-constitutional manner by which President Macapagal rose to power.

The group was referring to the Edsa II demonstrations in January that ousted former President Joseph Estrada and helped install Ms Macapagal to power.

The KPD said Ms Macapagal's all-out support for the "militarist and globalization agenda" of the United States was also endangering the country's national security and economic survival.

Poor human rights record

Some 500 Bayan members from Southern Tagalog joined a cultural caravan starting Sunday to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to protest the holding of the summit.

Bayan-Southern Tagalog said the two-day caravan was organized to appeal to the President to stop military operations in the region.

They also used the occasion to denounce the anti-people goals of the summit.

Pastor Mel Abesamis, secretary general of Bayan-Southern Tagalog, said the summit would not solve the country's economic problems.

"This summit is no different (from) previous summits of leaders of nations whose central purpose was to save their economic interests," Abesamis said.

Nancy Rada of Task Force Tanggol Karapatan said the inclusion of terrorism in the summit was alarming because the United States recently presented a list of terrorist organizations which included the New People's Army (NPA).

"Instead of addressing first the fundamental problems of human rights violations, the President preferred to give time to the foreigners," Rada lamented.

Records showed that there were 181 cases of human rights violations in Southern Tagalog, which affected 1,401 persons.

On the government's human rights record, Reyes said "there is nothing to be happy about" as he lambasted the military, police and government-supported bandit groups for perpetrating at least 330 human rights violations.

In a report by the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), the military was said to have committed 76 percent of the 330 human right violation cases in the country, with the police perpetrating 10 percent of the cases.

The EMJP report said that under the Macapagal administration, 134 people were illegally detained and arrested, 39 were brutally murdered and 34 were victims of extra-judicial killings by the AFP and the PNP. Thirty-eight people were massacred and nine civilians died due to indiscriminate firing by government forces.

Bayan also blamed the government for the disappearance of 11 activists and the murder of Wilfredo Mananghaya, Bayan chair in San Miguel, Bulacan, on Sept. 20. ***With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Remembering, protesting from north to south

(From page A1)

giveness. Earlier in the day, Find displayed the photos of their missing loved ones outside the Manila Hotel while the National Economic Summit was going on.

Joining the families in the rituals was the human rights community. Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who has filed a bill seeking penalties for involuntary disappearance, had been invited to lead the rites but failed to make it. There are two other similar bills filed by Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro.

Apart from Find's fight in Congress, its symbolic Christmas tree manifests to the government its persistence in their cause.

Visayas rites

In the Visayas, more than 4,000 members of militant groups in Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Tacloban marched in the street yesterday to mark the Human Rights Day.

At least 1,000 protesters mainly farmers and slum-dwellers joined a march rally in Iloilo City led by the Panay Alliance-Karapatan and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

The protesters first marched in the city's main streets before holding a cultural program at the Rotary Amphitheater.

Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan in Panay, belittled the National Socio-Economic Summit held yesterday.

"We do not need more summits but the political will to resolve the country's problems by heeding the demand of the people for jobs, higher wages, land reform and an end to corruption in government," said Celiz.

In the morning, around 100 members of the Federation of Iloilo Farmers Association held a rally at the public plaza of Janiuay town, 32 kilometers north of Iloilo City, demanding land and a stop to the "militarization" in the countryside.

In Bacolod, about 3,000 gathered at the public plaza where leaders of different religious faiths called on the government to enter a principled negotiation for peace with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to resolve the root causes of the armed conflict.

Weary

They also called for a stop to what they called an "unjust war against our weary people" and for the implementation of a genuine agrarian reform, among others.

Raffy Baylosis, peace consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front, scored the Macapagal administration for what he called as "systematic human rights violations."

He said continued military operations in the countryside resulted in one civilian dying every five days.

He also denounced "unjust and illegal detention" of 134 persons, including the 60 suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

In Cebu City, some 400 members from different militant groups held a protest march, condemning the anti-people policies of the Macapagal administration.

The protesters assembled at the University of the Philippines-Cebu grounds and marched to Camp Lapulapu, the headquarters of the Armed Forces Visayas Command in Barangay Lahug.

Vida Arcamo, secretary general of women's group Gabriela-Cebu, said they convened at the Viscom to tell the military that they committed the most number of human rights violations in Central Visayas.

Close to 250 members joined the human rights rally in Tacloban City yesterday.

Melvin Anino, Bayan Muna coordinator for Eastern Visayas, said the Macapagal administration should address the root causes of the insurgency.

"If the administration fails to address the root causes of insurgency problem, the situation will worsen," he said.

The group also demanded the release of 30 political prisoners in the region.

Baguio City/Cordilleras

Cases of human right abuses against the police or the military have gone down, according to Commission on Human Rights (CHR) officials in Baguio.

The CHR is looking closer to home where most of the human rights violations recorded this year happened.

Lawyer Jocelyn Bastian of the CHR said most violations are child abuse cases. Cases of abuses blamed on the police or the military have gone down, she said.

The CHR has now shifted to conducting seminars and workshops on human rights instead of investigating human rights cases, she said.

Department of Health records showed that Abra has the most number of domestic violence and sexual abuse cases in the Cordillera.

Abra hospitals recorded 455 cases of sexual, physical and emotional and psychological abuse this year. All other Cordillera provinces recorded only 155 of such cases.

A separate report from the Philippine National Police said most rape cases in the region were committed on children.

The Cordillera police noted that from January to September this year, 67 rape cases on minors were recorded compared with 27 on adults in the region.

Dinteg, a legal advocate center for the Cordillera, however, said human rights violations with Army soldiers or policemen as perpetrators are still prevalent in the region.

Sexual abuse by soldiers

Beverly Longid, Dinteg executive director, cited a case in Kalinga where military men had impregnated at least nine women who attended an Army literacy program.

Longid said the Innabuyog, a women's organization based there, reported incidents in Tabuk and Kalinga where women were made to join the program.

She said after the sessions, the military men courted and had sexual relations with some of the women. When the women became pregnant, the women's families failed to find the soldiers involved, Innabuyog reported.

Dinteg also cited the case of a farmer who was killed by members of the Army's 22nd Special Forces Company in Mt. Province.

Political detainees in the region include three farmers in Kalinga who were arrested in November 1999 for allegedly conspiring with the New People's Army.

Youth projects go beyond basketball

(From page A1)

some youth organizations with a capitalization of P25,000.

"Some of our patients used to give us P5 donations and we used the money to buy cotton and some other supplies," recalled SK chair Raymund Fernandez, now a licensed physical therapist.

The SK tapped the services of its friends—licensed physical therapists who volunteered their time and expertise.

Since then more than 4,000 treatment services have been rendered by the clinic.

"Big hospitals are now referring patients to us," Fernandez said.

The clinic, through the generosity of some grateful patients, now has about P200,000 worth of equipment.

Aside from the clinic, Fernandez's SK also put up a scholarship fund for the youth in their barangay which has put a hundred high school and college scholars in school.

The Highway Hills SK has a P400,000 annual budget, representing 10 percent of the barangay funds.

In 1999, the National Youth Commission (NYC) recognized Fernandez for the SK's project. The SK National Federation also gave him a national excellence award.

Bringing the rich and poor together

The San Lorenzo SK in Makati City under Camillia Trinidad-Orense has sponsored sports tournaments, cultural events, animal vaccination and art contests.

With a P4.7-million funding this year alone, San Lorenzo is the second biggest-funded SK in the country. Part of the money is spent for the SK's feeding program for the children of poor families.

(While the barangay is mostly upper class, Orense says there are some 400 poor families living in what is called "Urban"—an area near Urban and Makati Avenues.)

Orense said one of the SK's most memorable projects was the free screening in June of the movie "Jurassic Park" at the Glorietta Mall which some 400 villagers and poor residents attended.

"It seems that for the first time, the villagers and the (poor) people from Urban mingled. It was nice to see them together. They watched the movie and we even gave them snacks," Orense said.

Birth pains

Fernandez and Orense are among thousands of SK members who are doing their kind proud.

Institutionalized under Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, the SK was intended to involve the youth in government and train them for future leadership.

Despite the birth pains and adjustments, the SK had produced a lot of success stories.

Richard Alvin Nalupta, SK national federation president, admitted that during the first years of the SK, which replaced the Marcos-era Kabataang Barangay, there were criticisms that SK projects were limited only to basketball tournaments and beauty contests.

He said politicians had even demanded the scrapping of the SK.

"We took the criticisms constructively," Nalupta said, adding that the SK National Federation implemented reforms for SK projects.

"I keep telling (the SKs) to be dynamic. We should graduate from these projects. We are not just good for basketball tournaments and beauty contests," Nalupta said.

Stricter rules on funds

In the 2001 Katipunan ng Kabataan and Sangguniang Kabataan Constitution and By-laws, the SK National Federation included a provision governing the allocation of SK funds. (Under the Local Government Code, 10 percent of a barangay's funds should be set aside for the SK).

The SKs are now advised to use 40 percent of their budget for the Green Brigade, livelihood, capability-building and anti-drug abuse programs.

A total of 58 percent should be devoted to education and moral recovery, health services, disaster coordination, community immersion, infrastructure projects, legislative work and other development projects for the youth.

The remaining 2 percent will be given to the higher federations.

Training future leaders

Mabel Villarica-Mamba, presidential adviser on youth affairs and National Youth Commission chair, said the SK is an important training ground for future leaders.

"It gives voice to our youth, it gives them the opportunity to be part of the decision-making in government and prepares them for bigger responsibilities in the future," Mamba said.

Mamba said the Philippines is the only country in the world that has youth representation in the smallest political unit of government.

"It's so unique and we are proud to share our experiences with other countries," Mamba said.

Nalupta said at least 70 former SK members have been elected city or municipal councilors, provincial board members, mayors, or vice mayors.

One of them—Lala Santos—was even elected representative of North Cotabato.

"My greatest accomplishment so far was being an SK. I won because of the youth and their idealism," said Santos, now an outspoken member of the 18-person minority bloc in the House of Representatives.

Before she became a member of Congress, Santos topped the North Cotabato provincial board election in 1998 on the strength of her performance as SK chair of Barangay Poblacion Carmen in Midsayap.

She recalled that when she was SK chair, she and her fellow SKs were not discouraged by the meager budget they had. They established good relations with local officials and conducted fund-raising activities to finance their projects.

Then President Fidel Ramos granted them assistance for an anti-drug campaign; and the SK even returned P20,000 to the Presidential Management Staff after the program was put in place.

Humerlito Dolor of Oriental Mindoro and Annaliza Europa-Morales of Ilocos Sur were also elected to their respective provincial boards through their accomplishments in the SK.

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78 solons move to postpone SK, barangay polls

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

SEVENTY-EIGHT congressmen yesterday urged the House to immediately pass four bills seeking to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled next year to 2004.

This came as Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo asked Congress to decide whether or not it would give the Commission on Elections the money for the elections.

"If they are not going to give us any budget for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, they have to let us know as early as possible," Benipayo said at the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel yesterday.

"There is no use preparing for elections that would not happen anyway," the Comelec chair said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed the postponement of the barangay elections.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would support the postponement if it is the will of the people. He said congressmen should get the sentiments of their constituents on the issue.

House Resolution No. 314 urged the committee on suffrage and electoral reforms to speed up deliberations on four bills seeking postponement of the two elections.

The lawmakers want the funds intended for the barangay and SK polls to be realigned to pay for the computerization of the national and local elections in 2004.

House Bill No. 197, filed by Rep. Herminio Teves of Negros Oriental, said the barangay and SK elections would cost P1.8 billion which would be better spent for the poll body's P3.5-billion computerization project.

Rep. Manuel Ortega said the barangay and SK elections should be postponed due to the economic crisis.

Rep. Isidoro Real said holding the elections next year would be ill-timed because the country had just been through with the 2001 senatorial and local elections.

At the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel, Benipayo declined to state his position on whether the community elections should push through or not.

"I would not be pushed into issuing any comment on whether or not I favor the holding of elections next year. It is a legislative prerogative," Benipayo said.

But he said that the Comelec is still preparing for both elections pending Congress' decision on its budget. One of the preparations, he said, is the continuing registration of new voters particularly those aged 15 to 17 for the SK polls.

"We have been told that the P900 million budget for the barangay elections has been transferred to the PNP for the recruitment of policemen. If we do not have the budget we have no other recourse but to postpone the barangay elections," Benipayo said.

Also at the Manila Hotel, Benipayo's nemesis, Commissioner Luz Tancangco, greeted the Comelec chair a happy birthday yesterday but continued her barrage of criticisms against the commission's leadership.

Tancangco disputed Benipayo's assessment that the recent elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was successful.

"The success of an electoral process cannot be seen only on the Election Day itself. It should be placed in the context of its overall effects to the peace process in Mindanao," Tancangco said.

She conceded that while there were no violence on Nov. 26, the elections were far from being honest and fair.

"How can it be fair when the resources of government were highly stacked up on just one side?" Tancangco said in obvious reference to the victory of administration candidate Parouk Hussin.

Tancangco said that the cases of pre-filled ballots containing Hussin's name were not isolated to a few areas.

"We received reports that there were areas that went on with the counting despite the discovery of the pre-filled ballots," she said.

Erap wants to be home for Christmas, New Year

(From page A1)

taking a new tack—if the government and the communist insurgents can agree to a ceasefire in the Yuletide spirit, why can't the same spirit "of grace and goodwill" be applied to father and son?

"They gave themselves up on April 25, 2001. It will have been nine months by Dec. 25 in this season of grace and goodwill when resistance, we hope, will melt a bit," defense lawyer Rene Saguisag wrote in the motion.

Anticipating strong objections from state prosecutors and anti-Estrada groups, Saguisag said:

"As to the usual question, 'How about other detainees being tried,' the answer is that they and their lawyers can file their separate motions citing their own justifications as we try to moderate our penological practices and look for models where they encourage weekend or night detention.

"Misery is not to be democratized and suffering equalized. Instead we should work for the amelioration of every detainee's condition."

No chance

According to Saguisag, the Estradas' chances of using the Christmas furlough to make a run for it are "nil" because both are afflicted with "eyes, knees, high blood pressure and heart problems."

The defense lawyers filed a separate motion saying Jinggoy was suffering from "life-threatening" heart problems.

Quoting cardiologist Robert Anastacio of the Makati Medical Center, the lawyers said Jinggoy had a "Non-Q myocardial injury caused principally by psycho automatic stress."

Jinggoy was taken from the government-operated VMMC to the privately run MMC on Friday afternoon. He had been complaining of chest pains since Thursday morning.

The lawyers said Jinggoy was undergoing a series of tests at the MMC. They did not say how long he would stay there.

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HARDAWAY SHINES

Suns nip Raptors; Kings win

Kasparov trounces Kramnik

MOSCOW—Grandmaster Garry Kasparov destroyed Braingames world champion Vladimir Kramnik on Sunday in a series of blitz chess games, walking away with the bigger paycheck on the final day of their exhibition tournament.

Kasparov won 6.5 to 3.5 in the final match of the Botvinnik Memorial Tournament, named after the former Soviet world champion Mikhail Botvinnik.

It wasn't as close as this score would indicate since Kasparov probably missed two other chances to win and Kramnik's only win came in the ninth game after the series had been decided. "Today was not my day," Kramnik said afterward.

Throughout the tournament, the two grandmasters played 20 games at various time controls for a total purse of $500,000. Kasparov earned $255,000, and Kramnik $245,000.

They drew four games at regular time controls. They played six games of rapid chess. Kasparov and Kramnik each won one game, and the rest were drawn. That left Sunday's 10 rapid games.

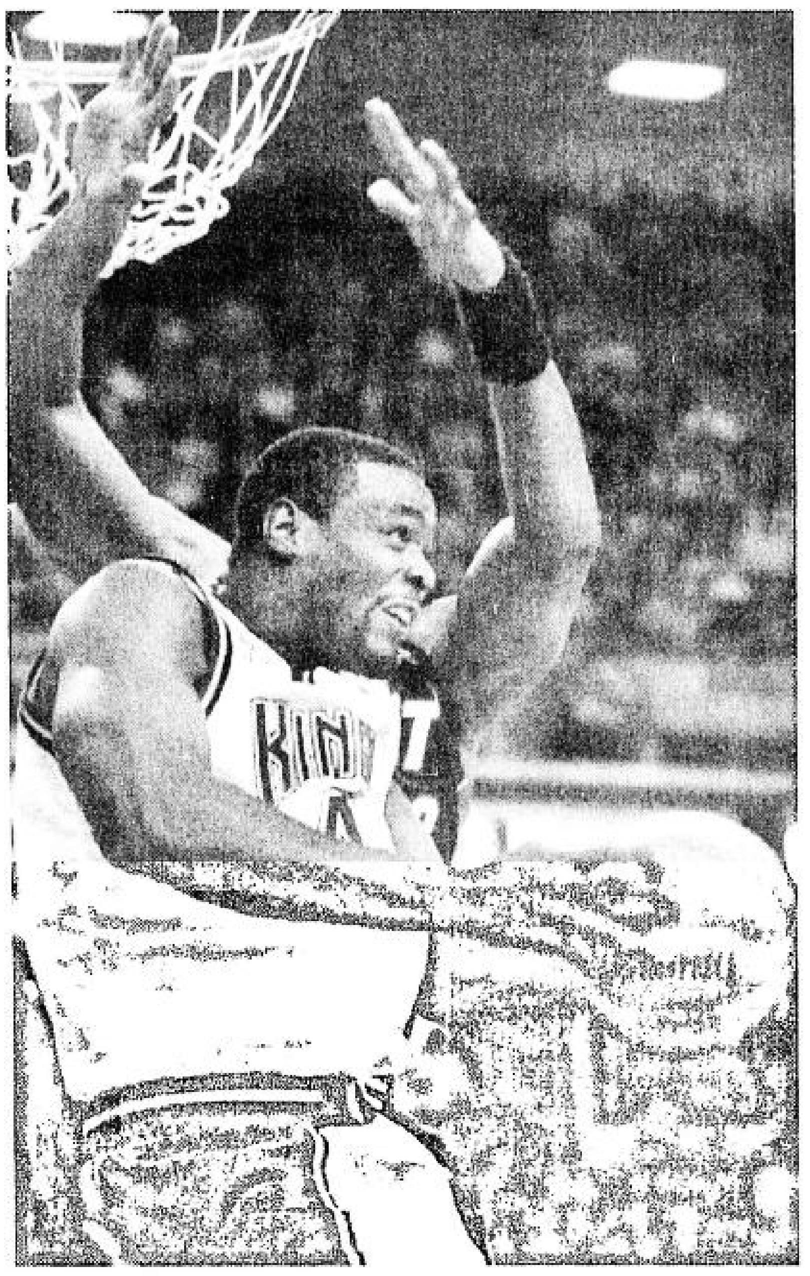
Kasparov won the first game and Kramnik was lucky to draw the second. The next three games were drawn. Then Kasparov broke the match open with three consecutive wins. Kramnik won the ninth game and the last game was drawn.

In blitz games, each player gets five minutes for the entire game. With so little time, the quality of play goes down. But the number of errors makes draws less likely so the games become more interesting for average players to watch. They are more tactical and less strategic. *AP*

Rams rip 49ers

ST. LOUIS — Marshall Faulk scored two touchdowns and Kurt Warner threw for two as the St. Louis Rams won a matchup of NFC West leaders, defeating the San Francisco 49ers 27-14.

The victory on Sunday, coupled with the Bears' loss at Green Bay, gave St. Louis the best record in the conference (10-2).



SACRAMENTO Kings forward Chris Webber (with ball) battles against Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning under the basket during the second half in Sacramento, California, yesterday. Webber scored 18 points as he rejoined his team for the first time this season after suffering an ankle injury in the pre-season. The Kings won, 95-88. AP

TORONTO —Penny Hardaway had 27 points, including the winning layup at the buzzer, as the Phoenix Suns beat the Toronto Raptors, 91-90, in the National Basketball Association.

The Suns overcame Vince Carter's 42 points in Sunday's game. His jumper with three seconds left put Toronto ahead 90-89.

The final play of the game began with Hardaway—who had 10 points in the fourth quarter—inbounding the ball to Rodney Rogers and then cutting to the basket. Rogers floated a return pass to Hardaway, who eluded defender Jerome Williams and put the ball in.

Kings 95, Heat 88

In Sacramento California, Chris Webber scored 18 points and had six rebounds his first game for Sacramento this season as the Kings beat Miami, the Heat's 13th loss in 14 games.

Webber, who missed the first 20 games of the season with a sprained right ankle, was activated from the injured list and helped lead the Kings to their third consecutive win and sixth in seven games.

Peja Stojakovic scored 23 points, Doug Christie barely missed his first double-double of the season with 18 points and nine rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu added 15 points for the Kings.

Jim Jackson, in his third game with the Heat after signing as a free agent on Dec. 2, had a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds. LaPhonso Ellis and Jimmy Jones each had 14 points and Alonzo Mourning added 13.

Pistons 105, Rockets 77

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jon Barry had 15 points, and Ben Wallace added 10 points and a season-high 18 rebounds to lead Detroit over slumping Houston.

Detroit's margin of victory was its largest against Houston, surpassing two 27-point wins over the then-San Diego Rockets. The Pistons also stayed on top of the Eastern Conference, improving to 13-6.

Cuttino Mobley scored 17 points for Houston, which lost its 10th straight - the team's longest skid since a 10-game slide to start the 1982-83 season.

Clippers 89, Hornets 78

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand had 22 points and 19 rebounds, and Jeff McInnis sank four free throws in the final 38 seconds as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Charlotte.

Brand made 10 of 12 shots, helping the Clippers beat the Hornets for the first time in eight attempts. Lamar Odom added 14 points and seven assists for Los Angeles, who returned to the .500 mark (10-10).

David Wesley scored 18 points for the Hornets, and Baron Davis had 16 points and 10 assists. *AP*

Perfect move

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHILE I was in Baguio last week covering the highly successful 52nd Fil-Am Golf at both the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay, strangers and friends alike kept asking me: Will Ron Jacobs finally win the Asian Games basketball crown for the Philippines in Busan, South Korea, next year?

My answer: Yes.

I gave three reasons:

1) We now have the material to defeat the Chinese. Our Fil-Ams in both the PBA and MBA possess the main ingredients to win it: Height and bulk.

2) The manner of choosing the Final 12 is almost a perfect formula. The tryouts that began yesterday will definitely screen only the best from the best.

3) Ron Jacobs is a tested international coach. His wealth of coaching knowledge is beyond question. One Asian Youth crown. One ABC title. A brilliant showing in the World Basketball Championship in Gerona, Spain.

We placed third in 1998 in Bangkok, fourth in 1994 in Hiroshima and second in 1990 in Beijing. All three stints were under the aegis of the Philippine Basketball Association. In those Asiad jousts, no tryouts were held to select the members of the Philippine Team. Jacobs did not coach any of the three teams.

I think the return of the old system of holding tryouts is a perfect move. Whoever thought of adopting it again (was it Jun Bernardino?) deserves commendation. There is really no substitute to it. In a tryout, you practically invite the best. And next get only "the best from the best."

■

Dorothy Joy Delasin deserves another Athlete of the Year award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association. Her victories in the Giant Eagle Classic and the Samsung World Championship were hailed as milestones in world ladies golf. The first one saw her repeat as a champion. The Samsung event involved only the world's Top 20 lady golfers; winning it made Delasin technically as the world's best lady golfer this year.

If billiards magician Efren "Bata" Reyes should crowd her for the award, then I have a compromise: Make them co-winners. Bata as the best male athlete, Dorothy best female athlete.

I submit to reason, never to emotion.

■

Vic Vic Villavicencio, who has built a house in San Vicente in the Cagayan Valley because "I love the place for its beautiful waterscape and bountiful marine life," has told me he would never abandon the yearly Triple V-Media Golf Tournament.

"Even if my Tito Tito (Eduque) is gone, I will continue to hold his baby golf tournament in observance of his birthday," Vic Vic told me during a break of the 52nd Fil-Am Golf. "That's a commitment for as long as I live."

Why don't we rename it to Eduque Memorial Cup?

Juico cites Prisaa

A VETERAN sports administrator yesterday urged the immediate formation of sports clubs to expand the base of sports which are limited to inter-color and inner-class competitions in school intramurals.

Philip Ella Juico, former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, issued the challenge as guest speaker during the kick-off of the five-regional Private Schools Athletic Association (Prisaa) Clusters competitions at the Batangas Provincial and Cultural Center in Lipa City last Monday, Dec. 10.

The regional meet attracted over 3,000 athletes from Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Lucena and the Rizal Provinces where most of the present national athletes come from.

Sports events included during the three-day championships are athletics, swimming, basketball, volleyball, baseball, sepak takraw, tennis, gymnastics, badminton, taekwondo and judo.

The five cluster competitions will wind up with the national Prisaa championships, scheduled to be staged in Feb. 2002 in a place that is expected to be announced by the Prisaa board this week.

Juico, who now serves as vice chair of IBC 13, also cited the 50-year-old Prisaa which he said has proven to be an effective feeder system for national athletes that has spawned notable athletes like the late ace sprinter Inocencia Solis, hurdler Rogelia Ferrer and amazons Josephine dela Vina (discus throw), Marcela Alonzo (javelin) and Visitacion Ribagorda from the Cebu Institute of Technology.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—Oregon vs Minnesota at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: Holden Australian Open Golf Championship, Day Two at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Open Golf Championship, Third Round at 10 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Cincinnati) Highlights at 11 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

Ucap derby tonight

THE FIRST bigtime derby of the 2001-2002 cockfighting season at Mandaluyong Coliseum starts at 5 p.m. today via the "11st Ucap/Hammer Sagupaan Altuz 7-Cock Derby" bannering some 55 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

On tap is the 3-cock elimination round, while the 4-cock finals is on Thursday, Dec. 11. Derby hosts are Patrick Antonio and lawyer Ram Lopez.

This event is the first of 15 Ucap derbies (13 national and two international) that will serve as basis in choosing the Ucap Cocker of the Year 2002 winner.

Paying patrons who bought tickets in either of the four Mandaluyong derbies, namely Rotary 5-Cock Derby (Dec. 1), Berong Javellana 4-Cock Derby (Dec. 8), Sagupaan Altuz 7-Cock Derby (Dec. 11 and 13) and Gaffers 4-Cock Derby (Dec. 18) are automatically qualified in the raffle draw on Dec. 18.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Efren 'Bata' Reyes beat Rodolfo 'Samson' Luat, 10-2, to win the first Pro-Am 9-Ball Open at the Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue. Also today in 1994, GM Rogelio Antonio beat GM Jon Arnason in 34 moves of a Sicilian to keep the Philippines' seventh-place standing in the 31st World Chess Olympiad in Moscow.

Gonzales snares 3 final seats

TOP-RANKED Richard Gonzales lived up to his lofty billing as he bagged three final seats in the National Table Tennis Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati Sunday.

Behind a vaunted defense, the 30-year-old national player worked his way to the finals of the men's singles, men's doubles and men's team event of the meet put up by Rustan's as part of its 50th anniversary and LG Electronics.

Currently, the best-placed Filipino in the world rankings at No. 325, Gonzales, a member of the Philippine Army, swept Leo de Leon of the Air Force, 4-0, in their semifinal encounter.

He will meet fellow national player Julius Esposo of Navy in the finals. Esposo turned back Joseph Cruz of the Air Force, 4-2, in their separate semifinals match.

Winner of the recent Makati Open, Gonzales later teamed up with Ermesto Ebuen under the Intensity Team banner to beat the tandem of Letran's Noel Gonzales and Donato Baes, 4-0, in the semis of the men's doubles.

The pair of Gonzales and Ebuen faces Navy's Joselito Alamazan and Lauro Crisostomo, a 4-0 winner over Johanne Remaneses and Christopher Castillo, in the finals.

LSA stakes football title

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Defending champion La Salle Academy of Iligan and five other teams—all first-timers—will dispute the Mindanao Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football crown starting today at the Antonio Acharon Sports Center here.

Challenging LSA in the four-day series are Surigao Norte National High of Surigao City, Zamboanga Norte National High of Dipolog City, M'Lang National High of North Cotabato, host General Santos National High and Davao's Rizal Memorial High.

Four of these teams—Surigao, Zamboanga, M'Lang and General Santos—are public schools.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad will be guests of honor during the opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

Councilor Maureen Rodriguez Padayao, Coca-Cola Bottlers Davao/GenSan manager Freddie Valencia and local football officials are also expected to grace today's opening rites.

d CARMON
CUIT PHIL

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Jeremy Marquez of Shell-Sky Trek-Edgesports (left) receives his trophy from two-time "Karter of the Year" awardee JP Tuason for winning the title in the expert category in the 2nd Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup karting championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite. Marquez was also voted as "Rookie of the Year" in the Shell Super Karting Series.

Standard Insurance drivers capture AF3, Toyota Cup

THE STANDARD Insurance racing team drivers Jojo Silverio, Roland Hermoso and JP Tuason—2001 champions of the premier motorsports events, the combined 12-race series PhilippinesAsian Formula 3 Challenge (AF3) and Formula Toyota Cup (FTC), were feted recently by organizer Batangas Racing Circuit Association at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Judes Echauz, Standard Insurance president, cited team partners—Toyota Alabang, KACE Electronics, Caltex, Team Tom's and Petron—for their all-out support to win the Overall Champion Team honors again this year in FTC and AF3.

Jojo Silverio, with six first placers and a 38-point lead in 10 races, is virtual AF3 champion going into the final leg at Zhuhai International Circuit in China. British driver Mark Goddard swept races 11 and 12 finishing second overall at 149 points to Silverio's 177. Philip Alvendia was third overall at 117. Goddard, Silverio, Richard Jason are 1-2-3 in both Zhuhai races, beating the Formula Renault entries.

Roland Hermoso, 1999 and 2000 Toyota Corolla Cup Champion, beat his 13-year first race jinx and won the 2001 FTC crown with four first placers and four second placers on a 174-points runaway score. Enzo Pastor trailed second at 149 pts. and JP Tuason third at 120 in only 10 of the 12 races.

In Zhuhai, two-time Karter of the Year JP Tuason ruled the 22-car combined AF3, FTC and Formula Renault field clocking faster than stronger foreign entries.

Boosting the teams' success are team manager Seymour Saldavia and the pit crew, headed by Standard Insurance technical department chief Lito Lazaga, which includes Jimmy Magat, Randy Calano, Jay Garcia, Allan Cruz and Ricarte Hernando.

Late last year, Echauz kidded Lincoln Chen of KACE Electronics and Johnny Tan of Team Tom's: "We need more competitors." The quip may still hold for the 2002 season, as this year, Standard Insurance drivers prevailed impressively.

More details, scores and photos at http://formularacingstars.tripod.com/

6 racing days part of MOA

THE DECISION to hold six days of racing for two consecutive weeks in between the Manila Jockey Club's San Lazaro Hippodrome and the Philippine Racing Club's Santa Ana Park for the month of December, 2001 is an offshoot of an earlier agreement between the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) and the two race clubs and had long been incorporated in the 2001 racing calendar.

The clarification was issued by Philracom chair Andrew A. Sanchez in response to the growing apprehension of some quarters that the said schedule was arbitrarily allowed by the Commission without ample consultation and due consideration to its possible adverse effects on the well-being of the industry's race horses.

"The six-day race week schedule in between the MJC and the PRC for this month (December) would be a one-time occurrence and formed part of the agreement reached between the Philracom and the two clubs during the drafting of the annual racing calendar late last year," noted Chairman Sanchez.

Sanchez further explained that the Philracom authorized the holding of the six-day racing schedule at the instance of the two race clubs which requested the additional race day to compensate for their decision not to hold races on traditional holidays like Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) and Jan. 1 (New Year's Day).

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano (center, seated) and BEST Center president Nic Jorge are shown signing an agreement for a joint sports development program in various disciplines in Ilocos Sur. Also in picture are: Boy Quisido (left, seated); Bong Savellano, Joe Lazaro of the governor's office, and Ompong Segura of BEST Center (from left, back row).

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

FedEx cagers nip Cho Pat

FEDEX-RP Men's Team got crucial charities from Michael Manigo and Ryan Bernardo in the dying seconds to thwart Cho Pat, 81-79, yesterday in the National Basketball League (NBL) Presidential Cup at the UM gym. The Nationals hope to remain on top when they take on Spring Oil at 11:30 a.m. today. Freebies from Manigo and Bernardo came with less than four seconds left and quelled the last of Cho Pat's repeated rallies off Noel David's treys at endgame.

Volleyball needs new players

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Volleyball Association (Pava) will conduct an open tryout on Dec. 15, 16, 17 and 18 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The prime objective is to select the best players who will compose the national team for men and women. For particulars, call Pava at tel. nos. 523-6489 or 526-8438 during office hours.

RP TEAM TO ASIAD

Jacobs sees no Caidic in tryouts

By June Navarro

RON Jacobs, head coach of the RP basketball team to the Asian Games, felt satisfied with the huge turnout during yesterday's tryouts but expressed disappointment as the bulk of the 46 aspirants played way below his expectations.

"To be quite honest, the biggest disappointment I had was that some guys that I expected to play with intensity are not in shape," said the 58-year-old Jacobs, San Miguel's top consultant in the PBA. "And that tells me who are dedicated and who are not."

Jacobs declined to name the half-hearted cagers.

He also showed admiration with the high talent level that poured in at the tryouts held at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center inside the Ateneo campus but stressed his anxiety over the absence of pure shooters in the mold of Allan Caidic.

"I'm pleasantly surprised with the talent level. But again, after one day I'm really worried about our shooting. I didn't see a Caidic," he said.

Caidic, who now calls the shots for Barangay Ginebra, was Jacobs' chief gunner when the country won the ABC title in 1985.

Jacobs added he doesn't want to pass judgment on the players since it was only the first day and most of the tryout participants are well versed on the professional style of play.

"I just saw a lot of guys trying to penetrate and that's not the way it is in the amateur game," Jacobs said.

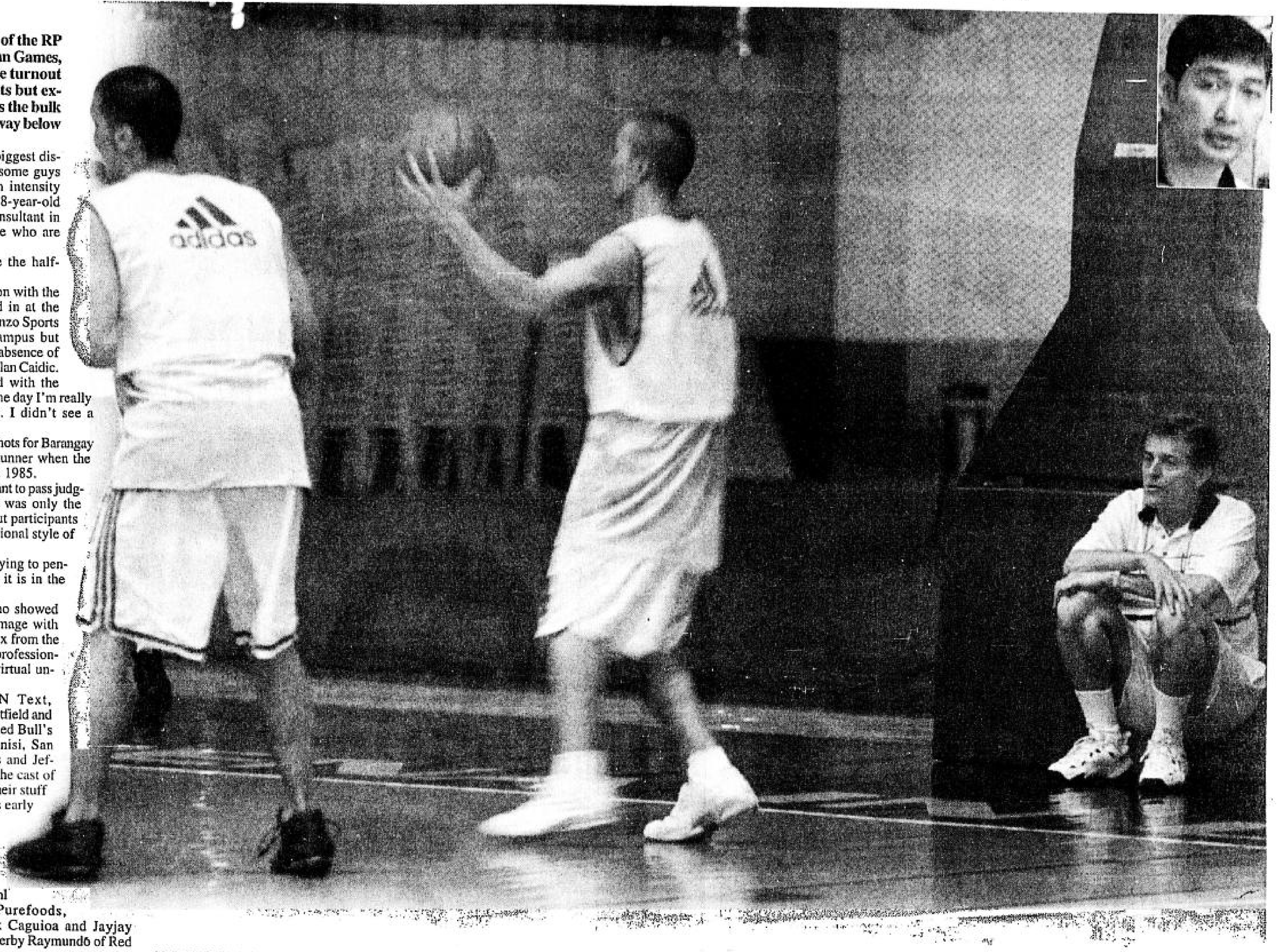
Of the 28 PBA cagers who showed up, only 20 joined the scrimmage with five players from the MBA, six from the PBL and a mixture of former professionals, an NCAA standout and virtual unknowns.

Asi Taulava of Talk N Text, Ginebra's Eric Menk, Rudy Hatfield and Edward Juinio of Pop Cola, Red Bull's Willie Miller and Mick Pennisi, San Miguel's Dondon Hontiveros and Jeffrey Cariaso of Tanduay led the cast of PBA favorites who flaunted their stuff in the tryouts, which began as early as 9 a.m.

They were joined by Jun Limpot and Bal David of Ginebra, Don Camaso, Patrick Fran and Gherome Ejercito of Talk N Text, EJ Feihl and Boyet Fernandez of Purefoods, Alaska's Don Allado, Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand of Ginebra, and Kerby Raymundo of Red Bull.

Newly crowned season MVP Danny Ildefonso of San Miguel Beer along with his teammates Danny Seigle, Olsen Racela and Dorian Pena were present but didn't take part in the scrimmages as San Miguel and Sta. Lucia Realty players were exempted due to the ongoing PBA Governors Cup Finals.

Hobbled by various injuries, Johnny Abarrientos of Pop Cola, Shell's Chris Jackson and Noy Castillo of Purefoods watched at the sidelines together with late-comer Jimwell Torion of Red Bull as the proceedings went on.



JACOBS (right) watches intently as UAAP stars Richie Alvarez and Mike Cortez join the scrimmage. Jacobs said he was disappointed over the aspirants' performance on opening day and noted there were no pure shooters in the mold of Caldic (inset).

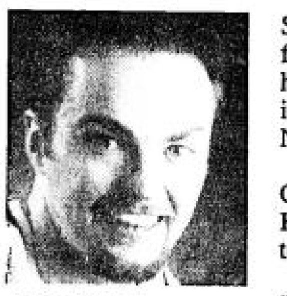
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

St. Francis makes it to quarterfinals

DESPITE the absence of brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo, defending champion St. Francis of Assisi College still entered the quarterfinals of the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) seniors basketball tournament at the Lyceum Gym.

The Doves posted their sixth straight win by trouncing Rizal Technological University, 79-50, in the tournament supported by Pagcor, Splash, Mikasa, Pepsi-Cola and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Alex bags 4th 'Hardcourt' award



COMPTON

SPEEDY Alex Compton reprised the role he played for the Manila Metrostars two years ago when he led LBC-Batangas past Andok's San Juan to its first-ever Metropolitan Basketball Association Northern Conference crown recently.

Ably backed by buddy Romel Adducul, Compton sparkled as the Blades bucked the Knight's comeback in the homestretch en route to an 88-83 win last Wednesday in Lipa City.

The win gave Batangas a 3-1 victory over San Juan in the best-of-five series. The win likewise completed the Blades' trip to the national finals where they meet south champions Negros Slashers.

San Juan, through the efforts of Christian Calaguio, Rafi Reavis and Gilbert Castillo, cut the Blades' 79-68 lead just 81-83, but Compton rose to the occasion to quash the Knights' uprising.

The 5-11 Compton, after drawing a foul from Chito Victolero, split his charities but Adducul grabbed the offensive rebound and set up Jeffrey Sanders for his own two free throws with only 22 seconds left. Sanders calmly sank his freebies to end the series and strip the Knights of their Northern Conference crown.

Compton, who pegged the final count with two more freethrows off Victolero, finished Game 4 with 23 points, two rebounds, one steal, and three assists to earn not only the best player of the game honor but also the MBA press corps' Hardcourt Hero of the Week citation for Dec. 3-9.

This makes Compton the first player to win the award handed to the week's top performers four times.

Cycling head accused of pocketing P2.6M

By Marc Anthony Reyes

OFFICIALS of the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association have filed a complaint before the Philippine Olympic Committee against Paca president Ponciano Regalado, whom they accused of forging a "raw deal" worth P2.6 million in cycling equipment with the Philippine Sports Commission.

In submitting their formal affidavit and supporting papers last Dec. 4, the Paca officials, led by treasurer Supt. Reynaldo Puerto and directors Col. Romeo Modelo, Cornelio Baylon Jr., Manuel Pucan and David Soriano, asked the POC to look into the cases and at the same time inquire with the PSC.

They claimed that some of the cycling equipment were still not yet delivered while others are of lower quality than those specified in the official list.

"It seems that there was an overpricing committed and worst, they disregarded the government's prescribed procedure in the procurement of supplies and equipment," they said in the letter.

The directors added that they are afraid their cases might be whitewashed in the PSC because it involved some PSC employees and that the POC is the rightful body to lodged their complaint to.

But POC president Celso Dayrit thought otherwise and instead left everything to the PSC to decide. Dayrit added that he already endorsed the complaint to the agency and added that he won't make any commitment until the PSC answers his letter.

"Let us not jump into conclusion. We will wait for the PSC to respond," said Dayrit, who just recently recognized Regalado as Paca president despite the fact that the association's leadership is still being disputed by a rival group led by Ramonito Durano and Bobby Almeda.

The Paca directors also complained that during the Asian Cycling Championships in Chinese Taipei last July, Regalado allegedly shortchanged the athletes and trainers of at least $5,100 (P258,315) by cutting down on their allowances and padding their hotel expenses.

The documents were signed by national cyclists Warren Davadilla, Arnel Quirimit, Enrique Domingo, Mercurio Ramos, Villamor Baluyot, Wilson Blas, Paterno Curtan, Lloyd Reynante, Ronald Gorantes, Alfie Catalan, Nilo Estayo, Ernesto Medina Jr. and Paolo Manopol as well as trainers Rufo Dacumos and Domingo Villanueva.

Being tagged in their letter to the POC aside from Regalado were Paca secretary general Armando Bautista, PSC cashier Yolanda de Mesa and PSC employee Constancio Lapara.

Els tops Players' meet by 1

CAPE TOWN, South Africa —World No. 4 Ernie Els found his form when it mattered Sunday, shooting a final round 65 to win the 2 million rand ($ 175,000) Vodacom Players Championship at the 6,131-meter Royal Cape Golf Club.

The South African finished one shot clear of the field at 15-under-par 273.

"It was one of my best rounds of the year," he said. "A little bit of this trophy belongs to Jos Vanstiphout."

Els worked with the Belgian sports psychologist on Saturday and Sunday to expel the little negativity that seemed to have crept into his game.

"I didn't change anything about my approach," Els said. "In golf, sometimes it happens to you, sometimes it doesn't. I kept the ball in play a lot today, tried to focus and hit the shots that I needed."

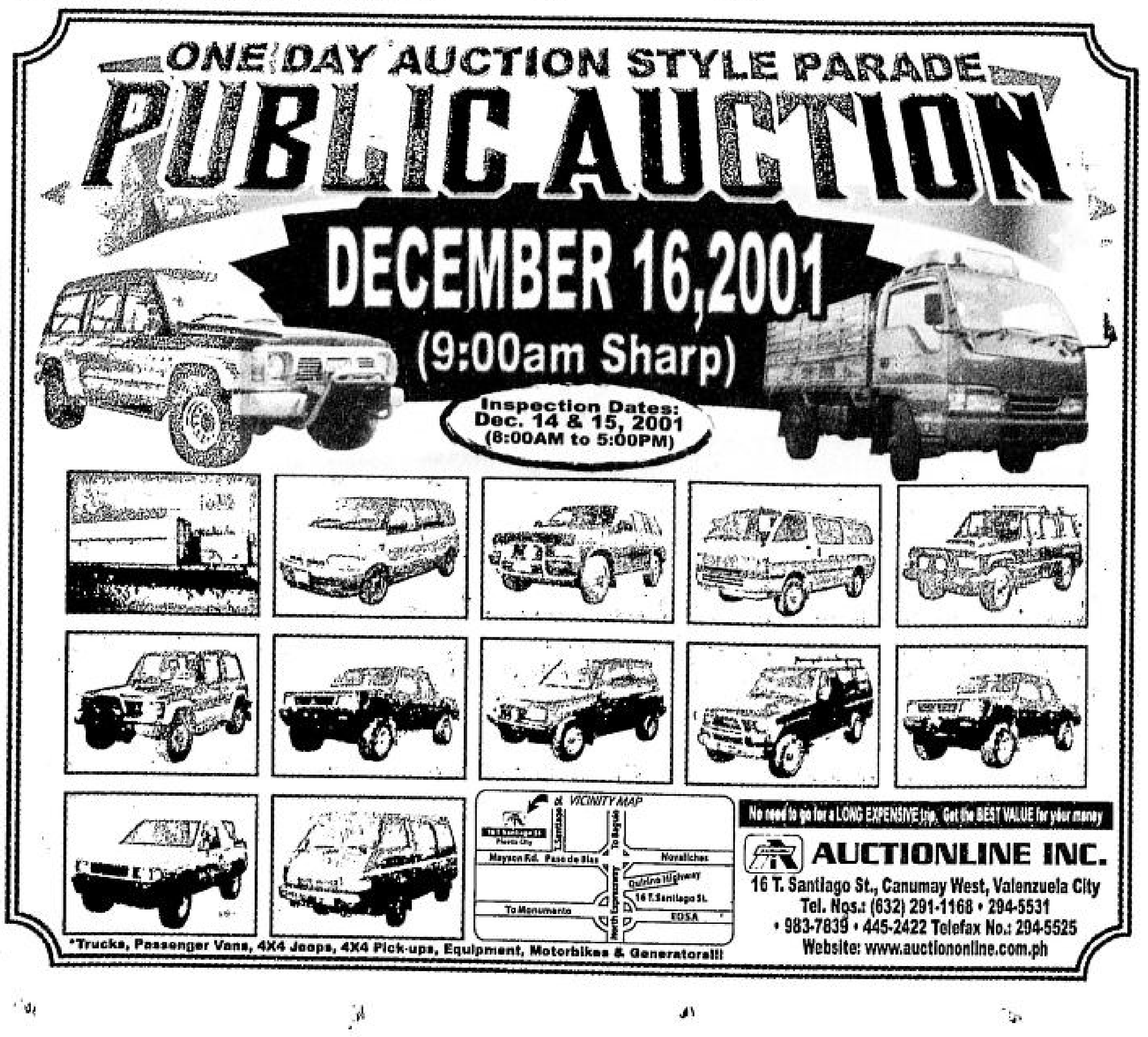
Fred-Mark team wins

DANA POINT, California —Fred Couples made a 3-meter (10-foot) birdie putt on the 17th hole for the winning margin Sunday as he and Mark Calcavecchia won the PGA Tour portion of the $ 1.2 million Hyundai Team Matches.

Couples carded five birdies to help beat defending champions Tom Lehman and Duffy Waldorf 1-up.

Lorie Kane and Janice Moodie needed only 14 holes to defeat Grace Park and Wendy Ward 5 and 4 in the LPGA Tour division.

AP



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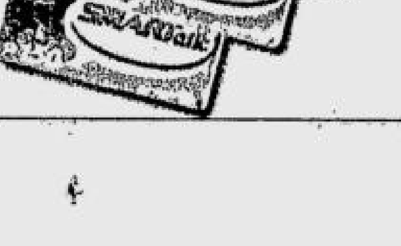

SMART

Payphone ang dating,
celfone ang galing

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ UP Diliman campaigns for a 'rape-free' campus A23
■ Cop turns down cash, accepts commendation A23

JOAN BONDOC

PAYATAS WATER PROJECT
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo watches as a young boy takes a bath as she inaugurates the "Patubig Project" in Payatas, Quezon City.

Human rights leader killed in Antipolo

By Nelson F. Flores and Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A LEADER of the Dumagat tribes in Quezon was killed on Saturday in Antipolo City as his group was preparing to commemorate Human Rights Day.

The human rights group Task Force Tanggol Karapatan (TFTK) said Nicanor de los Santos, secretary general of the cultural minority group Makabayang Samahan ng mga Katutubong Dumagat, was killed on Dec. 8 at about 5:30 p.m. on a stretch of road leading to Sumulong Highway.

Nancy Rada, spokesperson of TFTK, said in a report that human rights advocates in Southern Tagalog strongly condemned the senseless murder of De los Santos who, at the time of his death, was with his group preparing for a rally to mark Human Rights Day yesterday.

"Nicanor's killing is another addition to a long list of human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by elements of the Philippine Army and Philippine National Police," TFTK said in a statement.

"It is sad that during the celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, instead of responding favorably to the call for justice from victims of military operations, renewed violence claimed the life of the Dumagat leader," Rada said. "There (was) nothing to celebrate on Dec. 10, because the whole of Southern Tagalog especially the Dumagats and Mangyans is mourning."

According to a police report released only yesterday, De los Santos was listed down as a suspected New People's Army commander who was killed in an encounter with military forces in Antipolo, just a few hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo and her entourage left the city.

Police claimed de los Santos was a ranking member of the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the communist NPA.

He died as he was being treated at the Unciano Medical Center for gunshot wounds in the chest, police said.

But De los Santos' widow Adelina yesterday denied he was a communist rebel leader.

Adelina also appealed to President Arroyo to have the death of her husband investigated.

Adelina said her husband was not an NPA guerrilla. She said he was an ordinary farmer and admitted that her husband was actively involved in cause-oriented groups fighting for the rights of indigenous farmers in Southern Tagalog.

She tearfully said that at the time her husband was killed, he and other farmers were in Antipolo City to prepare for their march to Manila Hotel, where the first economic summit is being held, to air their grievance to President Arroyo.

But the police in their report claimed they

HUMAN RIGHTS/ A22

Lim won't head anti-crime group–GMA

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday denied that she was appointing former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim to head the government's anti-kidnapping drive.

Ms Macapagal said PNP deputy Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane will remain as head of the National Anti-Kidnap Task Force (Naktaf).

"General Jun Ebdane is fully trusted by the (Filipino-Chinese community,'' said Ms Macapagal.

She also belied speculations that Lim will soon replace Ebdane.

She named Lim as "full-time consultant" to the National Anti-Crime Commission last month as part of her assurance to the Filipino-Chinese community that the government is cracking down on kidnap syndicates.

Naktaf, which is headed by Ebdane, is under the NACC, a multi-agency body headed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Ms Macapagal created the NACC after abolishing the powerful but controversial Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (Paoctf).

The Paoctf, headed by then PNP chief turned Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was accused of being behind kidnappings, drug trafficking and bank robberies.

Ms Macapagal said she will not create another such "parallel PNP" agency.

"The main body is still the PNP. We don't want a parallel PNP like what happened with the Paoctf. See, we had to abolish it because the Paoctf members themselves are behind the kidnappings," she said.

Matibag still not off the hook in Cinco slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH THE evidence at hand, authorities are still studying whether to charge former Commission on Elections director Ma. Angelina Matibag for the killing of her predecessor, Velma Cinco.

According to a police source, the evidence appeared solid enough against Matibag, but they did not want to rush things in their investigation.

"Whatever comes, we are very determined to file a case against (suspect) Mario Francisco, including Matibag, if warranted," the source said.

The source added Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco) investigators will decide today if Matibag can be included in the rap sheet for the murder of Cinco.

As the deliberations continued, the two suspects in the Nov. 20 ambush slay of Cinco yesterday surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation and denied having anything to do with the killing.

Ricardo Tumambing, 50, of Evelyn Camus corner E. Rodriguez streets, BF Resort Village, Las Piñas, and Rodolfo Fortich, 62, of Hizon corner Quirino streets, Tondo, Manila were accompanied by their lawyer Faustino F. Tugade when the two men showed up at the NBI headquarters yesterday.

Tumambing surrendered a .45-caliber pistol, which he said is owned by his father. Fortich promised to surrender later his .38-caliber pistol.

Fortich said he bought the gun when he campaigned for Roland Lim, a son of former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who ran for a council seat in the last elections.

Fortich, who worked for Comelec commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, said he was entertaining a guest in his Tondo home when the shooting happened.

Tumambing, who has been working for Matibag for the last 40 years, said he was at Matibag's home when Cinco was killed.

Cinco was ambushed on Nov. 20 at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila,

MATIBAG/ A22

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Billy Bibit still in Subic

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN ITS fight against terrorism, the country should not rely on its neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). It will only be waste of time asking for their help.

This is proven in the case of Nur Misuari who is detained in Malaysia. The Malaysian government is repatriating the Moro leader because it said it finds no evidence linking him to the kidnapping of tourists in Sipadan, Sabah, last year.

There is very strong evidence that Nur Misuari encouraged the Abu Sayyaf bandits who were members of Misuari's "lost command."

***

Misuari fooled around with the government which was sincere in dealing with him. It gave him the most powerful Moro post in Muslim Mindanao from where he stole billions. The government also took into the Armed Forces some of Misuari's followers at the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Either the national government was naïve or plain stupid in believing that Misuari would be persuaded to turn himself into a complete ally.

Even if intelligence reports indicated that the kidnappings in Sulu, Zamboanga and Basilan had the blessings of Misuari, still the government did not move against him.

***

When Misuari escaped to Malaysia after ordering an attack on Army camps, the government thought Malaysia would help in dealing with the recalcitrant Moro leader.

By jailing Misuari for terrorism or other crimes against Malaysia, so the government thought, the burden of dealing with Misuari and his followers would be passed on to the Malaysian government.

But Muslims everywhere are all the same: they will unite with their fellow Muslims when the fight is against the infidel Christians. The Philippines is the only Christian country in Asia.

So, forget about seeking help from any Muslim country in dealing with terrorism if the terrorists are Muslims.

***

Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office should stand his ground in dealing with undisciplined members of the Western Police District (WPD).

Aglipay's order to have all policemen in Metro Manila attend roll call and formation before starting their work and after their tour of duty is being defied by some WPD members. These cops say they find Aglipay's order oppressive.

But what's oppressive about policemen submitting themselves to higher authorities ?

***

I remember what former Philippine National Police chief Cesar Nazareno told me when he was still in the service years ago.

Nazareno, a disciplinarian, said that most Metro Manila policemen were undisciplined. He said that cops in the provinces were disciplined.

If those WPD cops continue to defy orders from their superiors, they should be assigned to the provinces so provincial cops will "infect" them with discipline.

But most Metro cops would rather resign than be given provincial assignments. Then, good riddance !

***

The government should consider having the police force in the town or city under the mayor.

If the mayor can hire and fire policemen, he can be blamed for the deteriorating peace and order in his locality. Right now, the mayor doesn't have complete control over the local police. As *consuelo de bobo* the mayor can recommend who his police chief should be. In many instances, the mayor's recommendation is not followed by Camp Crame.

During the pre-martial law days, the mayors held complete control over the local police. By and large, policemen toed the line because they were afraid of getting the mayor's wrath.

The police integration brought about indiscipline in the ranks.

***

Customs Collector Billy Bibit still refuses to vacate his post at the Subic Freeport despite being replaced by another customs collector assigned by Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva.

The newly assigned customs collector at Subic, Ping Bartolome, holds office at a hotel inside the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) complex. There, he signs papers. His subordinates go to the hotel to consult with him on business matters.

Bartolome can't enter the office of the Subic Bay customs collector because Bibit has padlocked it.

Work at the Subic customshouse has ground to a halt because of Bibit's insubordination.

Why is everybody afraid of Bibit ?

2-month reprieve for debt-laden Naia

By Christian V. Esguerra

PARAÑAQUE City yesterday gave the embattled Ninoy Aquino International Airport a two-month grace period to settle its supposed P650-million debt in land taxes.

Airport officials have until Feb. 8 next year to pay for the property taxes after Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez moved the scheduled public auction of Naia. The auction was initially set anytime before Christmas.

"It's Christmas time and let's consider this move as an act of goodwill on our part," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Should the airport officials fail to settle its supposed obligations by the February deadline, Parañaque would immediately proceed with the auction, Marquez said.

Earlier, the Pasay city government had advised Marquez to go slow on his plan to auction off the airport, warning him that it would trigger legal disputes.

Pasay city administrator lawyer Ernestina Carvajal said a part of Naia belongs to Pasay.

But Marquez said he and his men have already ironed out possible legal impediments that might keep Parañaque from proceeding with the auction.

"We have already satisfied all the requirements for the auction," she said. "We're just completing certain documentation in time for next year's auction."

Marquez pointed out that only the part of the airport that belongs to Parañaque would be auctioned off. This includes the runway and Naia 1 and 2, he said.

The airport, the mayor claimed, owes Parañaque about P650 million in land taxes since 1992. But Carvajal insisted that Naia likewise has about P750 in unpaid real property tax to Pasay.

Both local governments supposedly had an agreement to equally divide Naia's land taxes, Carvajal said.

But the agreement, she said, eventually failed since the airport supposedly did not settle its obligations.

Marquez said he asked his lawyers to look into the supposed agreement, fearing it might have been disadvantageous to the city.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, December 11, 2001
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: **Is 40:1-11**
Gospel: **Mt 18:12-14**

Jesus said to his disciples, "What do you think of this? If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them strays, won't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside, and go to look for the stray one? And I tell you: when he finally finds it, he is more pleased about it than about the ninety-nine that did not get lost. It is the same with your Father in heaven: there they don't want even one of these little ones to be lost."

Commentary

It is marvelous how Jesus could express the same idea several times without repeating himself at all. He must have had a poetic gift, coupled with a rich and creative imagination. As a teacher, he knew that things should be repeatedly told to his students so they would remember them. Besides, as a good teacher, he also knew how to express these same ideas in many different ways so that his audience would not get bored. And this is the message we repeatedly find in the Gospel: God's mercy and His love for the poor. Shall we learn the lesson some day?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Forum shopping—There is forum-shopping where the elements of *litis pendentia* are present, and where a final judgment in one case will amount to res judicata in the other. *Litis pendentia* or *auter action pendant* exists if the following requisites are present: (a) identity of parties, or at least such parties as represent the same interests in both actions; (b) identity of rights asserted and relief prayed for, the relief being founded on the same facts, and (c) the identity of the two preceding particulars is such that any judgment rendered in the other action, will, regardless of which party is successful, amount to *res judicata* in the action under consideration. *Res judicata* applies only where judgment on the merits is finally rendered in the first case. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, Antiporda, Jr. v. *Sandiganbayan* (Second Division), G.R. no. 116941, May 31, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Human rights leader . . .

(From page A21)

found subversive documents, including an alleged hit list, in De los Santos' possession.

Among the names in the hit list were Bagong Nayon barangay captain Carmen Lazarte and Lito Balu, a former employee of the Antipolo City government.

The names Butcher Doroteo, who was gunned down by a suspected communist hit squad on Sept. 4; Perly Lianzana, a Metro Manila Development Authority security guard assigned at the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill; Rufino Fabali, a farmer accused of land grabbing and who was found executed in Sitio Casili, Rodriguez, Rizal; and Leonardo Santos, a former policeman turned businessman who was killed last month; were also in the hit list, police said.

Sources at the Rizal Provincial Police Office headquarters said the clash happened early Saturday evening, eight hours after President Arroyo attended the city fiesta on the invitation of her godson and city Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan.

Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, Antipolo City police chief, said the suspected NPA guerillas were spotted in Barangay Dalig by members of the Philippine Army's Task Force Panther under Col. Laureano Tolentino.

Macalalad said the suspects tried to enter the city to wreak havoc and embarrass the President. He added De los Santos, who was in the military's most wanted list, was immediately identified by intelligence men.

Macalalad said the soldiers tried to stop and arrest the guerrillas but were met with gunfire.

"This prompted the soldiers to fire back and, during the ensuing gun battle, De los Santos was mortally wounded," Macalalad said.

TFTK records listed 182 cases of human rights violations and abuses by the military in the region, affecting 1,450 individuals.

AFP's Southern Luzon Command spokesperson, Col. Danilo Fabian, denied that the military had committed human rights violations in Southern Tagalog.

"These alleged human rights violations are only aimed to discredit the military before the eyes of the people," Fabian said.

Various groups led by TFTK called on authorities to give justice to the death of the Dumagat leader by immediately pulling out the abusive soldiers from the region.

The group also denounced members of the 74th Infantry Battalion who attempted on Sunday to stop and prevent eight buses containing the delegates from Quezon province from joining yesterday's protest rally.

Suspect in Chua killing flees to United States

By Christian V. Esguerra

A KEY suspect in the killing of University of Sto. Tomas student and ROTC cadet Mark Chua has reportedly fled to the United States.

Michael Von Rainard Manangbao "escaped" following the filing of murder charges against him and five other members of the UST Reserved Officers Training Corps, said Chua's father Welson.

Welson slammed Manangbao's father, said to be the chief of the Cabanatuan police, for allowing his son to fly to the US despite a standing agreement with authorities. He said in a statement that Chief Supt. Ruel Manangbao had promised that "he would not stand in the way of justice and... surrender his son upon the issuance of warrants of arrests."

The older Chua described the younger Manangbao's US travel as an "obvious evidence of guilt." He asked the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation to ensure that Manangbao would face his charges in the Philippines.

Last week, the Department of Justice ordered the reopening of the preliminary investigation of Chua's killing after two new witnesses claimed that they saw how Chua's body was taken out of the UST ROTC office on the night of March 15 this year.

Four other witnesses had previously claimed in affidavits that they saw Manangbao and the five other suspects conducting a supposed initiation rite on Chua on the same night. Chua's body was found floating in the Pasig River the following day.

Growing old doesn't mean you should stop wishing

By Michelle V. Remo

CHRISTMAS is for children as well as for the old people who also look forward to the Yuletide.

Anticipation for Christmas is the mood at the Golden Acres home for the aged in Quezon City, where old men and women, many of them abandoned, have their share of Christmas treats like *Noche Buena*, caroling, gift giving and Christmas party.

"Christmas is a merry time here," said Pacita Sarino, head of Golden Acres. "Last year, they had a joyful Christmas party prepared by the staff. This year, they are looking forward to an even more exciting celebration."

Agustin Liloc, or *Lolo* Liloc, 76, said a group of old people, including himself, is already preparing to go caroling. Donors to the Golden Acres often visit the shelter during the Christmas season and to show their gratitude, the residents prepare Christmas carols for them.

They are also preparing a *curacha* dance number for their Christmas party, according to *Lolo* Liloc. Lolo Liloc came to the Golden Acres after the company where he worked as an assistant secretary closed down. A widower whose children had all been living independently, *Lolo* Liloc simply walked in and knocked at the doors of the Golden Acres.

Sarino said that while the elders become attached to the staff and eventually enjoy their stay at the Golden Acres, some cannot help but still yearn to be united with their families. But since most of the elders' relatives cannot be traced, the shelter diverts the residents with activities, especially this Christmas.

Asked what his most memorable Christmas had been, *Lolo* Liloc answered with childlike innocence: It was when he and the other residents had *lechon* for *Noche Buena*. The *lechon* came from the sponsor of another resident, Braulio Sevilla. "It was the first time we had *lechon* for Christmas and everybody was happy."

Lolo Braulio said it was also his most memorable Christmas because he remembered all of the elders exchanging gifts and singing and dancing.

Dextrose and all

Lolo Braulio once worked as a seaman in a shipping company. He fell down in a ship's stockroom once and broke his spinal chord. Brought to a hospital in Cebu, he heard funeral service agents competing for the chance to get the bodies of the patients who would die.

Fearing that he might soon be one of the dead, he took his dextrose bottle with him and sneaked out of the hospital. He went to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila and, after recovering his health, asked a PGH social worker to help him find a shelter. He was referred to a crisis center in Legarda in Manila, which in turn recommended him to the Golden Acres.

"*Nanibago ako noong una akong pumasok dito,*" *Lolo* Braulio said. But it only needed following house rules and knowing how to mingle with the other resident to help him appreciate life in the shelter.

Lolo Liloc said that long before he lost his job, he had been planning to apply for residency at the Golden Acres after his retirement. When he lost his job before retirement time came, *Lolo* Liloc was ready to embrace life at the Golden Acres.

It is not a difficult life to embrace, according to *Lolo* Liloc. The residents are assigned responsibilities which he says give them a sense of fulfillment. His assignment is cooking rice and assisting in the feeding of the others.

Lolo Braulio is tasked with the maintenance of the social hall, particularly the sound system. He said that every time he sees that any of the *lolo* and *lola*, which is how they call each other, looking lonely, he plays music until he sees them smiling and eventually dancing.

Second marriage

Lolo Braulio was once named "Best *Lolo*." He said that to earn the title, one should be respectful of his or her co-elders, be willing to help them when they lose their way to their cottage and be courteous when talking to people.

Health checkups and spiritual enhancement services, such as Bible lessons and *Simbang Gabi*, are part of life for the residents. This Christmas season, those who are interested are also taught how to make Christmas decor.

Lolo Liloc says a sportsfest is also held. His personal favorite sports are bowling and walkathon. The sportsfest is usually followed by an out-of-town activity, the most recent being a trip to a resort in Cavite.

Lolo Liloc said that since the men and the women are housed in separate cottages, it was only during one of these outings that he met *Lola* Rosita Maburang, 80, who eventually became his second wife. They got married on Valentine's Day in 1998.

After getting married, they were given a room of their own.

Hopes and wishes

Advanced age does not prevent the residents of the Golden Acres from making wishes.

Lolo Braulio said he wants to see his daughter Evelyn, who is a contract worker in Guam, this Christmas. He hopes that one day, she would petition him so they could be together for good.

Father and daughter lost contact because their jobs brought them far from home. The last time they got in touch was after he appeared on a TV show that featured the Golden Acres and his daughter was able to reach him.

During their last meeting, Evelyn brought her children with her so they could meet their *lolo*.

Lolo Braulio also hopes his eye operation for cataract last Dec. 5 would cure him completely.

"I don't ask for money," he said in Filipino. "I only ask that we here enjoy good health."

Lolo Liloc, having a happy second married life, said he couldn't ask for more, aside from the success of the Golden Acres.

He said that the continued existence of the home for the aged would save more lives like his.

PDI TURNS 16 WITH GMA AS GUEST OF HONOR EDWIN BACASMAS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor during the 16th anniversary of the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Saturday. Ms Macapagal was joined by PDI chair Marixi Prieto (seated, left) and editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc (right). Also in photo are (standing from left, second row) director Pat Garcia, reporters Juliet Javellana and Christine Avendaño, editor Leah Makabenta, reporter Dona Pazzibugan, editors Chato Garcellano and Jorge Aruta, opinion columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, publisher Isagani Yambot, president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, vice president and chief finance officer Luis Yamson, news editor Jun Engracia; (third row, from left) editor John Nery, research head Miner Generalao, city editor Gerry Lirio, columnists Vic Agustin, Ramon Tulfo and lawyer Raul J. Palabrica.

Matibag still not off the hook . . .

(From page A21)

while she was on her way to work in her red Kia Pride (TDR 779) with her son Carlo and sister Marian Jayme.

Cinco, 62, was shot four times in the head and body. Her son was hit in the shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

The police source said Tumambing and Fortich do not look like the two suspects in the police sketches which were based on witnesses' description.

The source added that the investigators are still reviewing the suspects' background.

Tugade earlier accompanied another suspect, Mario Francisco, to the bureau last week. Francisco also surrendered his .9 mm pistol to the NBI.

The bureau earlier arrested a fourth suspect, Conrado Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas.

Robles had been charged with murder and frustrated murder before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

METROBRIEFS

2 killed in QC road accident

TWO students were killed when their car rammed into a tree on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City early yesterday morning. Gerald Alejandro, 26, of Aries Street, Cruzville Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City, and Jose Carlo Yturzaeta, 17, of Block 21 Lot 24, Goldman Street, Quezon City were pronounced dead on arrival at the Fairview General Hospital. Police said Yturzaeta was driving the Toyota Corolla (WLW 647) to Fairview from Libis when he and his companion met an accident on Commonwealth Avenue about 3 a.m. yesterday. Upon reaching Trovajo Restaurant near the Fairview Market, the car reportedly lost its brakes, causing the front left tire to go up the center island. The driver then totally lost control of the wheel and the car hit a mahogany tree. Initial reports said the accident occurred while the victims were competing in a drag race, but police clarified that the case was still under investigation. *Agnes E. Donato*

Ammo found in posh Dasma home

A BUNGALOW in upscale Dasmariñas Village in Makati City which was rented out to a foreigner yielded several cases of assorted ammunition the other day. Marites Lazalita, an executive of the Urban Hotel and landlady of the bungalow house, immediately called the Makati City Police to report the ammo she found inside the house on Morada Street, Dasmariñas Village. According to PO1 Ricky Corpuz, they recovered 11 boxes of M16 automatic rifle bullets, 54 boxes of 12-gauge shotgun shells, 23 boxes of .22-caliber bullets, 45 boxes of .45-caliber bullets and six magazines for M16 automatic rifles with 50 rounds. Lazalita told police she went to the house around 2:30 p.m. on Saturday to inspect the premises, after it was abandoned for one month by its previous tenant, one John Lindenberg and his companion, Grace Garcia, 25. When Lazalita walked into one of the rooms, she found the ammo inside one of the closets. Police are still investigating the case and the true owners of the ammo. They are also trying to ascertain the nationality of Lindenberg and whether he is connected with a criminal or terrorist group. *Alcuin Papa*

P185,000 swindle

A PREGNANT woman who passed herself off as a doctor swindled a drugstore employee of close to P185,000 worth of medicines in Makati City the other day. Janice Sibonga, 18, a sales clerk of Botika Sa Tapat, went to the Makati City Police yesterday morning to complain how she was duped by the pregnant suspect who identified herself as a "Dr. Arlyn." Sibonga told police that the suspect went to the drugstore and asked Sibonga if she could see one of the drugstore's pharmacists named Lorna. The suspect said she was to claim some drugs from Lorna. Since it was Lorna's day off, the suspect asked for the drugstore owner, Dr. Mario Jacinto. But Jacinto was also not around, and Sibonga was forced to lend her cell phone to the suspect. "Dr. Arlyn" then called Jacinto on Sibonga's phone but the call was diverted to his wife. Sibonga said the suspect and Jacinto's wife talked on the phone. After the call, the suspect told Sibonga that she obtained permission from Jacinto's wife to "claim" the medicines. After getting the boxes of amoxicillin, the suspect left the drugstore on board a taxi. When Sibonga finally talked to her employers, she found out that the owners did not really give the bogus doctor their permission to claim the drugs. It was then Sibonga decided to report the matter to the police.

UP Diliman campaigns for a 'rape-free' campus

By Agnes E. Donato

SOME 500 faculty members, students and staff of the University of the Philippines convened yesterday at the university's Diliman campus to protest violence against women and children.

The UP Center for Women Studies and the UP Diliman Gender Office organized the "Rape-Free Campus" program to support the V-Day global campaign against all forms of violence against women. These include rape, incest, sexual harassment, wife battery and other kinds of physical, emotional or psychological abuse.

Prof. Rosario del Rosario, coordinator of the UPD Gender Office, said the same campaign will also be launched in other UP campuses in Baguio, Los Baños, Manila, Iloilo, Cebu and Tacloban.

Del Rosario said while cases of violence against women in the university cannot be described as "rampant," there is still a need for the issue to be discussed among administrators, faculty members, students and staff of the university.

The professor said one of the main goals of the campaign was to organize a gender desk in each campus. These gender desks, she added, would be put up to help prevent and/or deal with violence.

The campaign organizers also resolved to push for the integration of the awareness of gender concerns in the university's policies and curricular, research and extension programs.

Also part of the campaign is the undertaking of an active information drive and conduct of gender sensitivity seminars campus-wide.

"What we want is to make all UP constituents to understand that violence is not something we have to take," Del Rosario maintained.

She added UP was also open and ready to provide assistance to victims of violence from outside the campus.

According to the UP Women Studies Center, unofficial reports of the Philippine National Police estimated that at least one rape occurs every six hours, and only two out of 10 such incidents were reported.

Safe hams for Christmas

By Jerome Aning

CHRISTMAS is here, along with the hams. Now come the meat inspectors, whose number was increased yesterday by Manila's veterinary office guard consumers against substandard meats sold in markets and slaughterhouses.

City veterinarian Jose Diaz said more meat inspectors were fielded to ensure the public's protection against substandard and "hot" hams that could be sold by unscrupulous persons wishing to take advantage of the rise in demand for meat and processed meat products.

"To protect the buying public, we are making sure that all meat and meat products sold in the city are inspected and do comply with the quality standards set by the National Meat Inspection Commission," said Diaz, who chairs city's veterinary inspection board.

He advised consumers to check the meat and meat products they are buying, saying these should bear the stamp of inspection of the NMIC or the VIB.

Meat dealers, he said, should also cover the meat they are selling to the public with a meat inspection certificate issued by the VIB and/or the NMIC.

City Hall is expecting a 25-percent increase in sale and consumption of meats during the Christmas season.

At the Vitas Slaughterhouse in Tondo, one of the largest abbatoirs in the metropolis, an average of 300 pigs, 180 cattle and 7,000 chicken are slaughtered each day to meet the demand of the consuming public.

The VIB, with the help of a Netherlands-based veterinary group, has been conducting a series of advanced training courses for its veterinarians and meat inspectors in a bid to keep the agency technically updated and abreast of the latest global trends in meat inspection, hygiene and quality improvement.

The courses dwelt on animal welfare, meat and poultry products regulation, meat processing, quality control, animal by-products utilization, as well as slaughterhouse, stockyard and poultry facility design, management and sanitation.

Nick Joaquin documentary at Greenbelt

A VIDEO documentary on the most significant events and personalities in Philippine history during the 20th century will be screened today at 5:20 p.m. at the Greenbelt Cinema Preview Room in Makati.

Called "Siglo Filipino: Odyssey of a Nation," the documentary written for television by National Artist Nick Joaquin, is part of the ongoing Cinemanila 2001 International Film Festival.

Previously, it was voted among the top five finalists for Best Documentary in this year's Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) Awards.

Extensively researched from a variety of archival sources, including the National Archives in Washington, DC, the documentary is an Infinit-1 Production, made in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and Butch Jimenez, formerly VP-Creative Services of GMA Network, Inc. Admission to the showing is free.

Two years in the making, :Siglo Filipino" also features commentary and analysis from some of the country's leading academicians in their respective fields: Mila Guerrero (History); Winnie Monsod and O.D. Corpuz (Economics); F. Landa Jocano (Sociology); Felipe Miranda (Political Science); and Nicanor Tiongson (Culture and the Arts).

Cop turns down cash reward, accepts commendation

FOR refusing to accept P25,000 reward after quick solution of a holdup case, Parañaque City police chief Col. Ruben Alnas Catabona received a commendation from his mayor Joey Marquez.

Marquez said men in uniform should follow Catabona's sterling example, describing Catabona's action as an unselfish gesture, which "comes as an invigorating whiff of fresh air. He deserves a medal from his superiors."

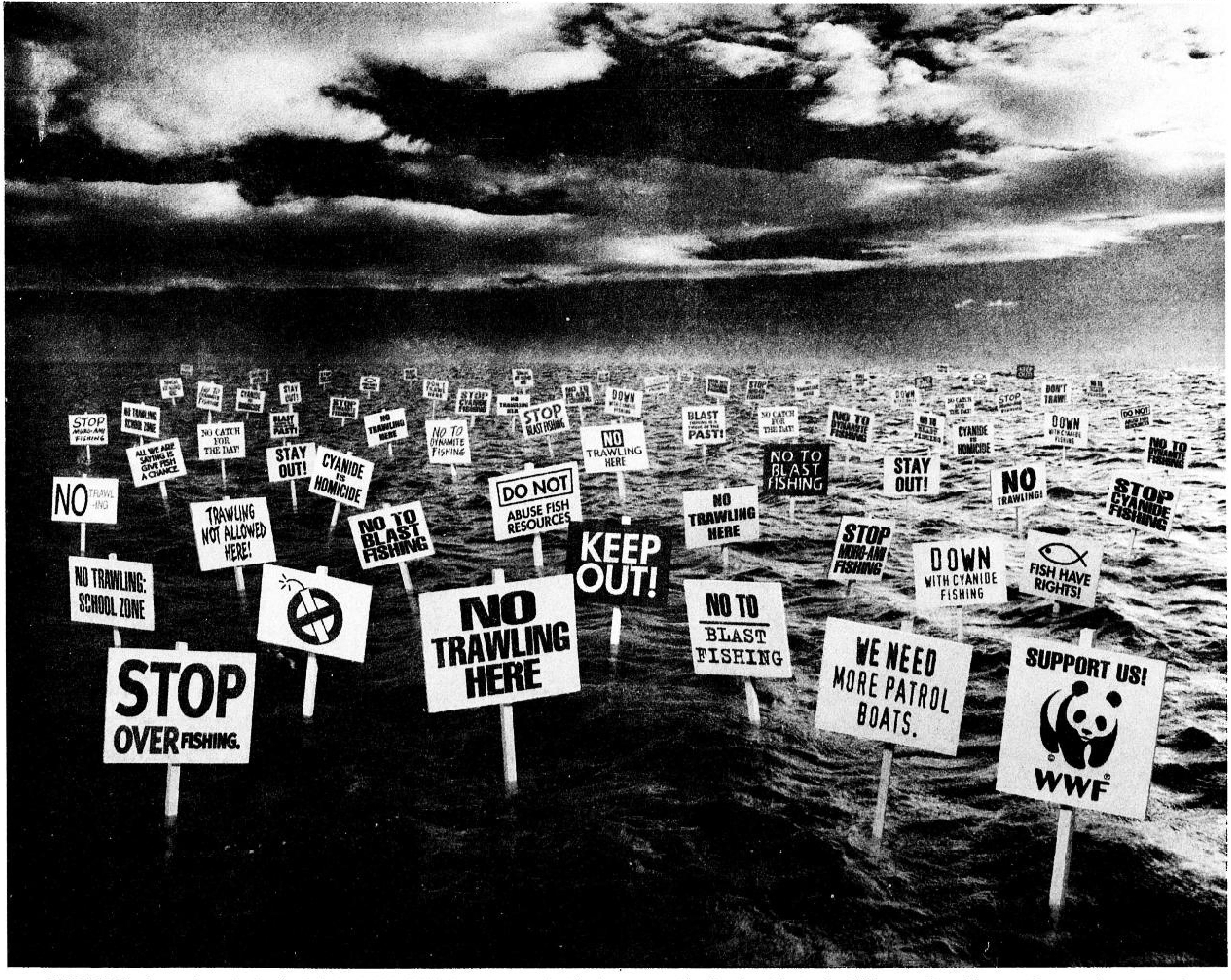
Catabona and his men were offered a P25,000 cash reward Thursday at the office of Marquez by the owner of Geolistics Inc., which had been robbed of P50,000 on Oct. 4.

Serafin M. del Mundo, 25, of Pildera I, Pasay City and an employee of the firm, told Police Insp. Glenn Fuentes Tigson that he was about to deposit the money when two men on motorcycles robbed him at gunpoint. He said one of the men also stabbed him for resisting the robbery. Tigson found flaws and inconsistencies in Del Mundo's testimony and questioned him further. In less than 24 hours after the alleged robbery was committed, Del Mundo cracked and admitted that he took the money and it was intact in his house in Pasay City.

Catabona ordered a follow-up operation to recover the money, and a case of qualified theft was filed against Del Mundo at the Parañaque City Prosecutor's Office.

Geolistics Inc. offered Catabona the reward money the following day, but he refused it, saying, "We policemen are sworn to protect the people so we will do it even at great risk to our lives without expecting anything in return."

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines. INQUIRER



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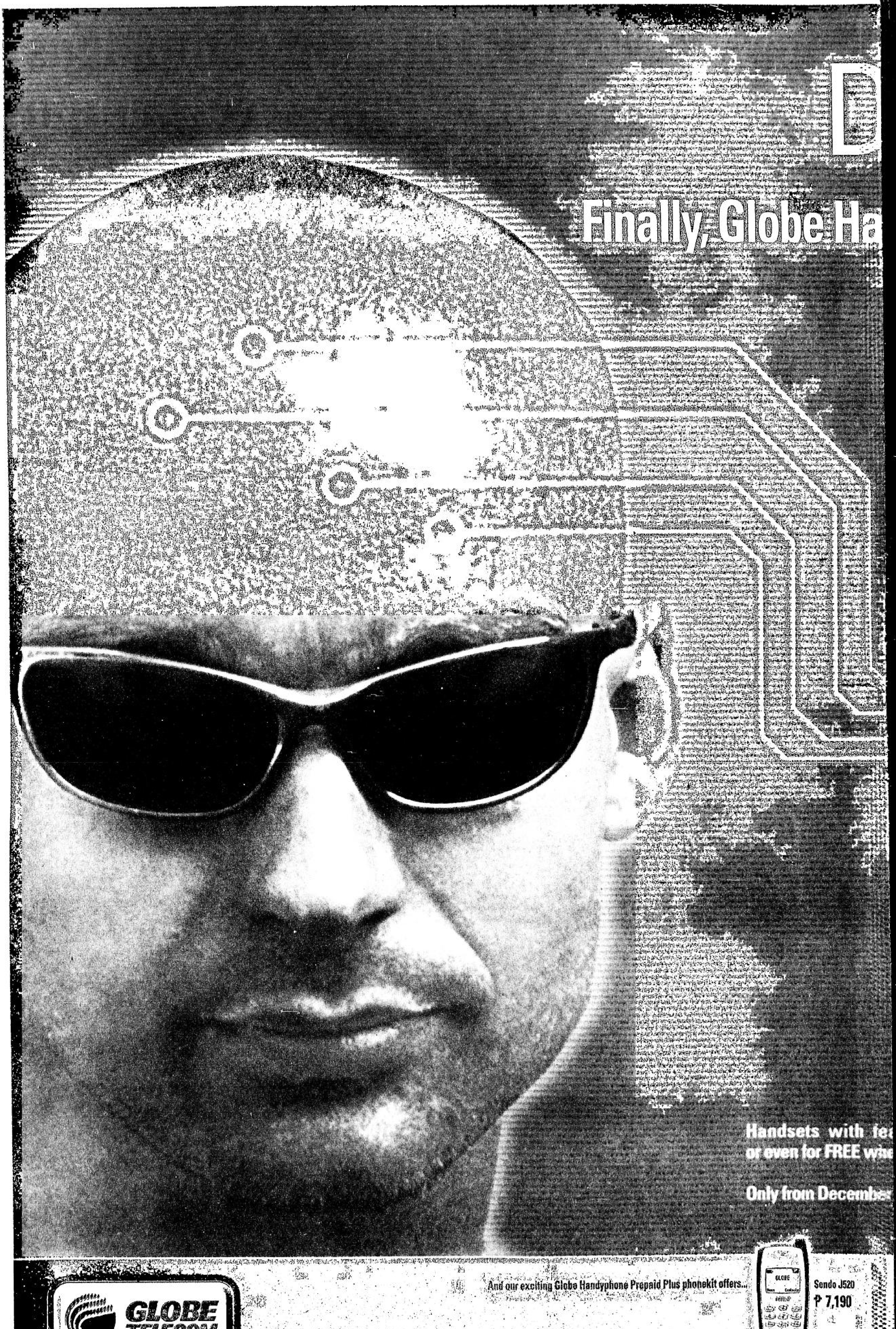
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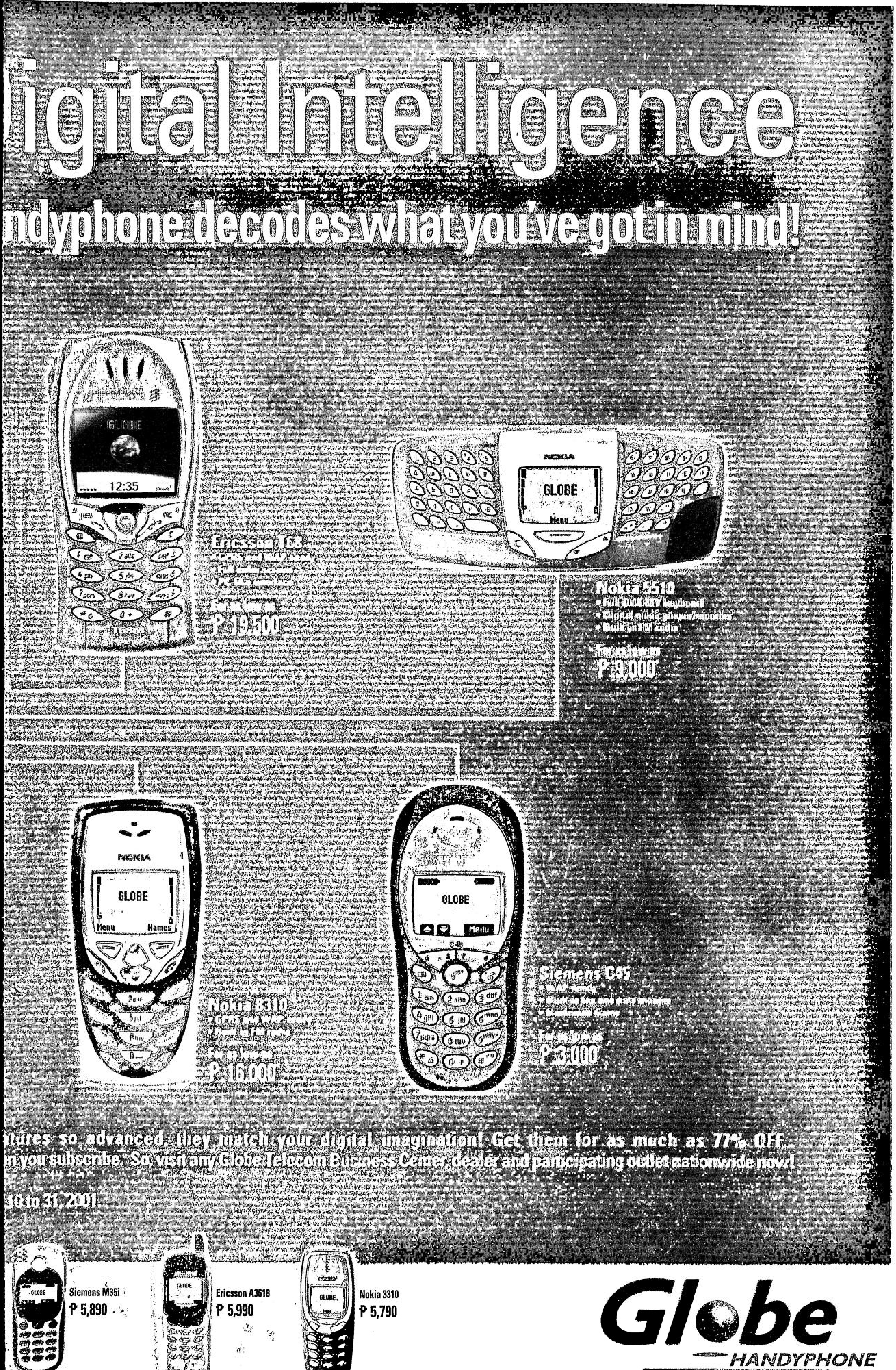

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2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IRON LADIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	FAST & FURIOUS / A.I.
ODEON	MUSKETEER
ODEON-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	MONSTERS, INC
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Keating

Ronan Keating in MTV Asia Awards

TOP international celebrities add to the glitz and glamor of the inaugural MTV Asia Awards, set to be held in Singapore on Feb. 2, 2002.

International heartthrob and superstar Ronan Keating will join Mandy Moore onstage as the two anchor hosts of the show.

WWF (World Wrestling Federation) pin-up and "The Mummy Returns" star The Rock is confirmed to be one of the guest hosts, and will be joined by other Asian hosts and presenters.

Members from the world-acclaimed Cirque Du Soleil will tumble and spill to thrill audiences, while funkmeisters Groove Armada will spin their brand of cool tunes at the post-show VIP party.

Ronan Keating, cohost and nominee for "favorite male artist" with Hong Kong "favorite music artist" nominee Nicholas Tse, made surprise appearances at the press conference.

The MTV Asia Awards is set to be the biggest ever music awards show in Asia and the first ever to acknowledge and salute the most popular Asian and international talent.

The event, to be held at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, will be unleashed before an audience touching over 7000, and will be telecast across Asia to more than 150 million households.

All award categories (except for the "Inspiration" award) will be voted for by viewers across Asia through an open poll that runs until Jan. 18, 2002.

To encourage voting, an extensive integrated marketing campaign involving TV, radio, print, internet and retail promotions has been rolled out across the region.

Fans can make their opinion count by voting online at www.mtvasiaawards.com by sending in their nominations by post, fax, SMS or simply dropping off their ballots at any voting partner outlets.

Remember to tune into the MTV Asia Awards nomination profiles special daily, 1:45 and 6:55 p.m. on MTV Philippines (UHF Channel 41).

To heighten the excitement, MTV will kick off on-the-ground marketing activities this month, with eight showcase parties at the coolest nightspots in the Philippines, Taiwan, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand and India.

Mitsubishi Motors and Panasonic are the official partner sponsors of the show.

Smart Communications Inc. is a partner sponsor in the Philippines.

Singapore Tourism Board is also supporting the inaugural MTV Asia Awards, set to make a music hub of Singapore in February.

TV premiere of 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' on AXN

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE AXN Channel is scoring a coup this month with its TV premiere of **Ang Lee**'s popular film, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," at 10 p.m. on Dec. 16., The hit martial-arts film ,topbills **Chow Yun-fat**, **Michelle Yeoh** and **Zhang Ziyi**.

The acclaimed production won Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film, Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction and Best Music. A period film set in China, it is an epic love story that has provided a major showcase for Asian talents on the world stage.

It has won other honors like the Golden Globes, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards, Taiwan's Golden Horse awards and the Hong Kong film awards. To cap its triumphant run, Time magazine hailed it as its Movie of the Year for 2000.

The highly acclaimed wuxia movie signals the entry of other blockbuster Asian films to AXN, like "Time and Tide," "the Road Home," "Not One Less" and **Akira Kurosawa**'s "Ran," which will premiere on AXN early next year.

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" starts with the great martial artist deciding to pursue the path of nonviolence, Li is set to return to the Wudan mountains to pay his respects to his late Master, who was killed by the notorious criminal, Jade Fox.

In Beijing, Li's friend Shu Lien meets Jen, the beautiful daughter of Governor Yu, who's apprehensive about her arranged marriage and longs for freedom.

The Green Destiny sword is stolen from Sir Te's mansion and is traced back to Governor Yu's compound and Jade Fox.

Hearing about the theft, Mu Bai is swept up in the search for the thief and murderer. Later, a thief tries to return the sword but is intercepted by Mu Bai. After a fierce battle, we learn that the thief is more other than the beautiful Jen.

Before her marriage, Jen's long-lost love, Lo, tries to get her back, but she advises him to forget her. She then steals the sword and disappears. Mu Bai and Shu Lien look for her, but she puts up a fight and almost knocks Shu Lien down.

Coming to Shu Lien's rescue, Mu Bai stops Jen and throws his sword into the rapids. Drowning, Jen is saved by the elusive Jade Fox, who fires poisoned darts at Li.

Jen goes in search of Lo to be reunited with him, but there is still one sublime act of love to be played out . . .

"Crouching Tiger . . . " will be re-telecast on AXN at 2 a.m. and 3 p.m. .on Dec. 17, 10 p.m. on Dec. 31, and 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2002. AXN can be accessed on Home Ch. 24, Sky Ch. 28 and Destiny Ch. 24.

Metro Manila Quiz Bee finals

THE 22ND Metro Manila Super Quiz Bee finals will unreel on IBC-13 at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 22.

The Dec. 15 telecast will showcase the Children's Quiz Bee for the Philippine History & Culture and Mathematics categories.

The Dec. 22 episode will feature the Junior Quiz Bee for Science & Technology, and the Senior Quiz Bee for General Information and International Affairs.

The Quiz Bee competitions seek to promote value formation, academic excellence, leadership, peace, love of country, brotherhood and unity among the country's youth.

Top moneymaker

JUST 13 days after it opened in the country, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has already grossed P100 M, making it the top film hit in the Philippines this year. What are the other big earners for 2001? "The Mummy Returns" is another major blockbuster.

In the all-time Top 20 films in the Philippines, "Harry Potter" is now at No. 6, dislodging "Deep Impact." It has also surpassed the grosses of such to moneymakers as "The World Is Not Enough," "Armageddon," "Tomorrow Never Dies," "Independence Day," "Mission Impossible 2" and "Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace."

In the United States, "Harry Potter" reached the $200-M mark in only 17 days.

'A Lauds Christmas'

THE JESUIT Music Ministry and Jesuit Communications have produced "A Lauds, Christmas," the fifth album in the Lauds Series. It retells the story of the first Christmas night through well-loved Jesuit hymns and carols – the story of the joy and hope brought to mankind by the child Jesus, a gift undeserved.

Featured in the album are the compositions of Jesuits Eddie Hontiveros, Manoling Francisco and Arnel Aquino, as well as Jesuit lay partners like Norman Agatep, Jandi Arboleda and Onofre Pagsanghan.

"A Lauds Christmas" is distributed nationwide by BMG Pilipinas.

Imbruglia and Westlife sounding like others

BY EMMANUEL V. PAPA

REVIEW

"White Lilies Island"
by Natalie Imbruglia
BMG Records

AFTER a seemingly endless hibernation, Australian pop star Natalie Imbruglia (silent "g") is back with a new album, "White Lilies Island."

Natalie hogged the peak of the charts a few years back with the monster hit "Torn" and immediately made her presence distinctly felt as a rising musical artist.

Four years can mean a lot of change. Expect this album to be a more mature and secure package compared to Natalie's first, "Left of Middle." Unfortunately, the new one's first single, "That Day," doesn't measure up to its predecessor, "Torn." With an equally forgettable video, the song gasps for air, and every phrase seems to panic and scamper just so it would fit in.

The new album's second track, "Beauty on the Fire" is a mix of a little ambience and pop creating a nice song very worthy of repetition in your car's disc changer.

"Satellite" somehow reminds us of the local band Barbie's Cradle. It's a wonderfully cute hybrid of finger-snapping pop and a bit of country and it seems capable of being a chart blazer with its equally cute lyrics (*So move a little closer/it's alright/ I know what you're thinking/ You've been circling me for a while*).

The fourth track—"Do You Love?"—is non-bubbly pop but is definitely edgy because of its simple but solid guitar riffs and a splice of gloomy gothic aura in the song's first few lines. It then sheds the gloom and asks a dramatic, hard-knock question for its chorus (*Do you love/ Do you need love/ When your angels fall/ Have you lost it all*).

Younger, more relaxed

In "Goodbye," Natalie sounds like a younger, much relaxed Tori Amos (but definitely not better!). The song tries to be gloomy (*And from the sidelines/ Watch me fall down*) but its guitar works just add to the track's downfall.

"Hurricane" is another flop as it could only pass for a monotonous lullaby.

In "Sunlight," it's back to being Natalie. It energizes the album again after a few setbacks in the earlier songs. This song reminds us of what we should be, and that we should live our lives to the fullest (*Did you ever feel sunlight on your face/ Did you ever taste clouds/ Did you ever touch space... Did you ever truly live*).

In the first part of "Talk in Tongues," Natalie again sounds like Tori Amos. This time, it plays nicely with clever instrumentation and keyboards. "Come September" is the best track on the album. It has great lyrics (you have to read it) that can be meditated upon. It brings down the curtain on a successful sophomore outing.

IMBRUGLIA

"World of Our Own"
Westlife
BMG Records

I NEVER really liked boy bands. Those dominantly blonde singing groups, I believe, are just suffocating the music industry with their recycled, formulaic song themes.

Boy bands are synonymous with good (really?) looks and bad voices. They use their looks, and not their ability to sing, to charm their way to the pop-crazed female population to earn big bucks. And it's unfair.

But upon hearing Westlife's first-ever single "Swear it Again," I changed my mind. It is pretty nice. With this song, Westlife is in a league a bit different from the others.

Their third album is a collage of happy-go-lucky pop and romance. The first single, "Queen of My Heart," is simple, with relaxing acoustic guitars and a good blending of voices. Though this song can pass for a Chrsitmas carol in a softdrink commercial, it has radio-friendly potential.

The second track is titled "Bob Bop Baby." Unfortunately, the only thing good about it is its title.

The boys bounce back in the song "I Cry." It's a good mix of R&B and a bit of Latin ambience, and the boys can ride on this song to veer away from the commonplace boy band sound. It's a triumphant, dramatic, and intensified love song (*I cry silently/ I cry inside of me/ I cry hopelessly/ 'Cause I know I'll never breathe your love again*).

The fifth track, "I Wanna Grow Old With You," will remind you of their trademark "Swear it Again" sound. It's another good love ballad.

The sixth track, "Evergreen," is another good love song. It's about a guy's sweet admiration for his girl (*Touch like an angel/ Like velvet to my skin*).

WESTLIFE

"World of Our Own," which is also the album title, fails miserably. It can be deleted, no damage done.

Like Backstreet

"Drive" is about devotion and settling down to never monkey around anymore (*Some only want the fun/ But I'm here to let you know/ that I'm all about the love*).

The tenth track, "If You're Heart's Not in It," is somehow good, with soothing vocals and nice background though the band sounds a bit like the Backstreet Boys.

"Don't Let Me Go" is the only good bouncy song and it can pass as a theme song for a forgettable teenybopper flick.

In "Love Crime," the boys sound more like N'Sync.

Finally, I raise a glass to the boys for doing a cover of Sarah McLachlan's "Angel" for their last song. Very good taste.

But the praise stops there. The original is still better and much more worthy of listening. The vocals try hard to imitate Sarah's lovingly calming approach, only to fail. Still, it's a good cover choice.

It seems like Westlife is more comfortable doing love ballads than bouncing melodies. This album has a total of 17 tracks and all but one of its happy songs sound like a cheap imitation of "Uptown Girl."

Maybe Westlife should concentrate on romantic songs and create their own style when it comes to danceable tracks.

CAYABYAB

Ryan, Gary lead 'Cellphonic' special

GLOBE Telecom airs its last episode of "Celebr8: A Globe Get-Together," Thursday, Dec. 13, 9 to 10 p.m. on Studio 23.

Dubbed "A Cellphonic Christmas," the TV special brings together Philippine music industry's Ryan Cayabyab and Gary Valenciano.

Feel the spirit of the season as the Philippine Pop Orchestra plays Christmas carols under the musical direction of Mr. C.

World-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers, with executive director and National Artist for Music Andrea Veneracion, will serenade the audience with more Christmas hymns.

Sharing center stage with them are Robert Seña, Rachelle Gerodias, Basti Artadi and Gary V.'s children Gabriel and Kiana Valenciano.

Students from Ayala Foundation and Globe Telecom-supported Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) will also perform in the one-hour musical extravaganza.

"Celebr8: A Globe Get-Together" is Globe's way of strengthening ties with its most valued subscribers.

Through the five-part TV special, Globe has launched the biggest text-based promo via "Text Away to Getaway," where subscribers had the chance of winning over P4 million in prizes.

POWER PLANT
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:25, 8:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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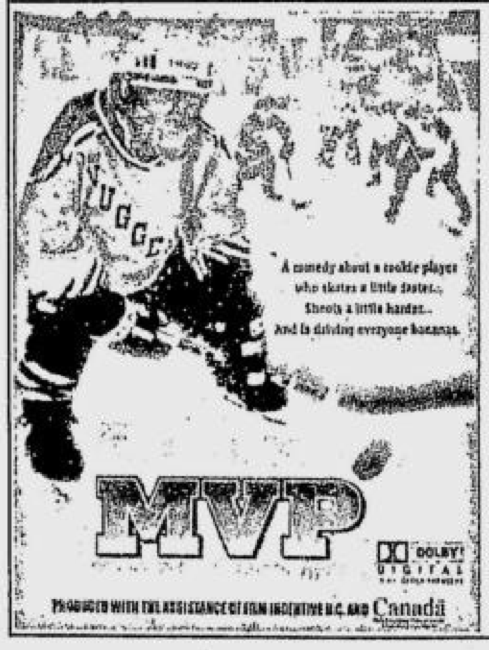

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CINEMANILA International film festival Tuesday • Dec. 11

	Greenbelt 1	Greenbelt 3	Glorietta 4
11:40am	Ecce Homo *(Germany)* PG-13	Roads and Bridges *(USA)* G	Detector *(Norway)* R-18
2:10pm	Dang Birely *(Thailand)* R-18	Disoriented *(USA)* PG-13	No Trains, No Plains *(Netherlands)* R-18
4:40pm	Nang Nak *(Thailand)* PG-13	The Foul King *(Korea)* R-18	Erotic Tales *(Germany)* R-18
7:40pm	Jan Dara *(Thailand)* R-18	Greedy Guts* *(Czech Republic)*	The Year of the Quiet Sun* *(Germany)*
9:40pm	The Isle *(Korea)* R-18	Divided We Fall *(Czech Republic)* PG-13	Happy End* *(Korea)*

▲ Ecce Homo - *Germany, dir. Mirjam Kubescha*
Pippo has become apathetic towards everything. His mom says he's become a real bum, so he goes off in search of bums. He encounters Angelo, an intellectual homeless person, the paraplegic Armando, Gianluca who has Down's Syndrome, melancholic Lucia and microcephalic Bobo. They all seem happier despite having suffered more.
▲ Dang Bireley's Young Gangsters - *Thailand, dir. Nonzee Nimibutr*
This stylish film recreates the life of a notorious 1950s gangster fixated on Elvis and James Dean. When martial law is imposed in Pra-Nakorn (now Bangkok), Dang Bireley's Young Gangsters are forced into the countryside for a final showdown with a rival gang.
▲ Jan Dara - *Thailand, dir. Nonzee Nimibutr*
Based on a controversial Thai novel, this is the story of a young man who returns to his father's house seeking revenge. He discovers that while he had always hated his father for the way he treated women, he may be destined to repeat the past in order to conquer it.
▲ The Isle - *Korea, dir. Kim Ki Duk*
Men visit a remote island to go fishing or have sexual adventures. A young woman named Hee Jin transports them on her boat. One day an ex-policeman with his lover's death on his conscience arrives. After long suffering he tries to kill himself, but Hee Jin saves him. An unusual bond forms between them.
▲ Roads and Bridges - *US, dir. Abraham Lim*
Lyndon Johnson Lee, a young Asian man, is sentenced to work on a Kansas road crew. He meets Daryl Logan, the only black man on the crew. Their only chance for survival is to diverge from their destructive paths and find a new one together.

▲ Disoriented - *US, dir. Francisco Aliwalas*
Filipino-American West Cordova's American Dreamis turning into an American nightmare. His overbearing mother wants him to be a surgeon. His crazy Japanese girlfriend wants to be a supermodel and craves blonde hair and round eyes. His long-lost jock brother has just returned wearing high heels instead of high tops. An outrageous yet touching comedy about family pressures and racial stereotypes.
▲ Foul King, The - *Korea, dir. Kim Jee Won*
He falls for the trainer-daughter of his idol, the wrestler Ulta Tiger Mask, and his match against a bloodthirsty opponent goes completely out of control. A surprising look at modern Korea, where a bank and a wrestling ring have more in common than one might think.
▲ Greedy Guts (Otesanek)
- *Czech Republic, dir. Jan Svankmajer*
A blackly comic fairy tale about a woman who longs so desperately to have the child that nature has refused her that she finally accepts as her own child an unearthed tree stump. Her absurd rebellion against Fate leads to terrible consequences.
▲ Divided We Fall - *Czech Republic, dir. Jan Hrebejk*
In a Nazi-occupied Czech town in the last years of WWII, Josef and Marie, a childless couple, give refuge to David, a young Jewish man who escaped from a concentration camp. To avoid reprisals, they are on friendly terms with the Nazis. When a Nazi is about to move into their spare room, Marie claims that she is pregnant and will soon need a nursery. Josef proposes a solution. Marie should have David's child. At the end of the war, the family is threatened by self-appointed judges who seek revenge on Nazi collaborators.

▲ Detektor - *Norway, dir. Pal Jackman*
Daniels' hobby is metal detecting. One day he finds a necklace inscribed with the name "Janne." Then a Janne appears, Daniel falls in love, and his life changes. Then she disappears, and Daniel finds himself dealing with more information than he bargained for.
▲ No Trains No Planes
- *Netherlands, dir. Jos Stelling*
Twenty-four hours in the rundown Café Central in a station that becomes a meeting place for people who watch life pass them by. Loser Gerard comes to say goodbye to the other regulars, and tries to make his last day a good one.
▲ Erotic Tales - *(Germany)*
A series of half-hour short films on erotical subjects conceived and filmed by renowned directors from all over the world.
▲ Year of the Quiet Sun, The
- *Germany, dir. Krzysztof Zanussi*
Shortly after the end of World War II, in a country that could be Poland or Germany, a lonely American soldier falls for a woman who tends to her dying mother. She knows he could be her last chance at happiness, but she can not bring herself to leave her mother. Can she summon up the imagination to see how her life could be different.
▲ Happy End - *Korea, dir. Jung Ji-Woo*
It is about a young man becomes confused and frustrated by his wife's infidelity. The wife, meanwhile, finds that her husband and her lover bring her happiness in two different ways. She wants to keep both - something which leads to even more confusion.

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

EDITOR in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc gets down with reporter Rocky Nazareno.

FOUNDING chair Eugenia Duran-Apostol tripping the light fantastic with partner Ricky Rabanal.

A PERFORMER like no other: Gary Valenciano sends the crowd dancing with "Shout for Joy." EDWIN BACASMAS

INQUIRER photographers and Gary V admirers Mike Alquinto (left) and Dennis Sabangan join their pop idol onstage. JOAN BONDOC

Inquirer turns 16 with a bang

MUSIC NETWORK ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BUDDING all-boy group Boyztown belts out pop hits. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

FOUR SEASONS JOAN BONDOC

IT WAS a night of fun, entertainment and raffle prizes as everyone danced till the wee hours, when the Philippine Daily Inquirer marked its 16th year last Saturday.

Guest of honor was President Macapagal-Arroyo, who spent two hours at the INQUIRER, chatting with chair Marixi Prieto, president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, opinion columnists, editors and reporters until midnight.

And what event wouldn't be complete without entertainment?

At the INQUIRER's 16th anniversary bash, a slew of entertainers added glitter and fun to the event.

Comediennes Ai-Ai de las Alas and Candy Pangilinan had INQUIRER employees in stitches with their antics.

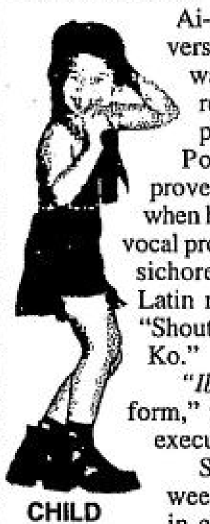
Ai-Ai did only one number—her version of "Proud Mary"—but it was enough to send the crowd reeling with laughter and applause.

Pop idol Gary Valenciano proved he *is* the total performer when he packed them in with his vocal prowess and matchless terpsichorean skills, dishing out a Latin medley and signature hits like "Shout for Joy" and "Pasko na Sinta Ko."

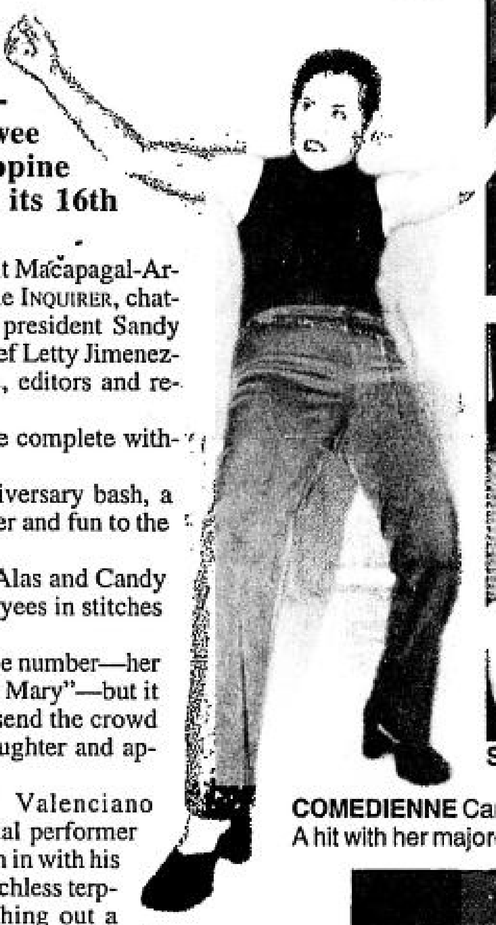
"*Iba talaga si* Gary *pag nag*-perform," noted an INQUIRER advertising executive.

South Border performed till the wee hours, and had Inquirer editor-in-chief Letty Magsanoc dancing with the crowd.

Leah Salterio



CHILD performer Kiray.



COMEDIENNE Candy Pangilinan: A hit with her majorette act.

JOAN BONDOC

SOUTH Border vocalist Luke Mejares performs till the wee hours.

BALDO'S Cradle. Not a copycat.

AI-AI de las Alas does a duet with INQUIRER cartoonist Jess Abrera. JOAN BONDOC

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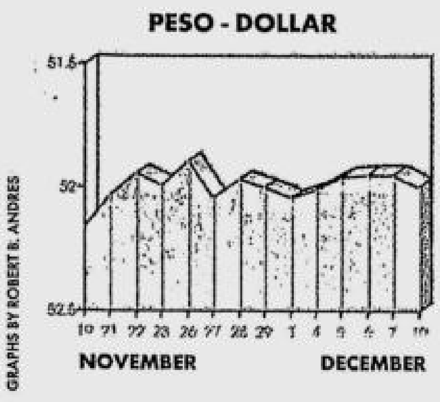


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.995 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Dec. 10, 2001

¥ 125.83 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Dec. 10, 2001

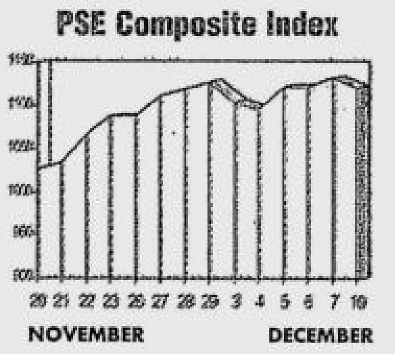
GOLD:$273.30/273.80
per ounce Hong Kong,
Dec. 10, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 0.8%

STOCKS finished yesterday's session with a modest loss as investors took their cue from Wall Street's Friday losses and cashed in on recent gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 9.37 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1120.83, adding to Friday's 0.3-percent loss. Prior to Friday's decline, the market rose 3.4 percent in two straight sessions.



(See stock market report on Page B4)

"The market could be reacting to Friday's sell-off in the US," said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan.

Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.5 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 1.6 percent, after the latest US economic data showed businesses trimmed payrolls by more than economists expected in November, which caused the unemployment rate to rise to its highest level in six years.

Aclan said the market could stage a rebound shortly ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting later this week on expectation US interest rates may fall further. Financial markets are banking on a minimum 0.25-percentage-point cut in key US rates. *AP*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Congress agreed yesterday to set up a special agency to help banks reduce bad loans as part of a plan to revive the country's flagging economy.

Under a proposed law, the agency would offer tax incentives to help banks get rid of their nonperforming loans (NPLs) and foreclosed assets, officials said.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said Congress and the Macapagal Cabinet had endorsed the proposed Special Purpose Asset Vehicles Act.

It is not immediately known when the bill would be adopted by the country's legislature but De Venecia said the proposal would be complemented by a large scale securitization program. He did not elaborate.

The Congress wanted to deal with the "near mortal wound" inflicted on the economy by some P470 billion in NPLs and foreclosed assets in the banking system, he told a high-level meeting yesterday of business, labor and political leaders dubbed as an economic summit.

NPLs
FORECLOSED ASSETS

De Venecia said the proposed law would encourage banks to resume normal lending activities.

"I believe this bill, when enacted into law, will rapidly raise several billions of US dollars as in (South) Korea and Thailand, with the funds to come from the private sector and from the international community without need of a bailout from government," he said.

President Macapagal said in a radio interview yesterday before the meeting that a special asset management agency was vital to strengthen the financial system and boost efforts to rehabilitate the economy.

The agency was expected to absorb non-performing loans of banks and other financial institutions. The banks are saddled with NPL ratios close to 18 percent.

"We must use the momentum of whatever resiliency we have shown so far and chase the light at the end of the tunnel," the President told the meeting in her keynote address.

Officials said the moves to rehabilitate the banking system and spur housing programs as well would help tide the Philippines through what Ms Macapagal described as "the deepest downturn in the world economy in over two decades."

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 2.9 percent year-on-year in the three months to September, compared with 3.2 percent in the first half.

The government believes it will avoid a recession, though GDP growth targets for next year have been scaled down.

Ms Macapagal said the government must "expand employment opportunities and attract investment" following the slowdown in exports, the traditional growth driver.

She said apart from making the poor unemployed and homeless, economic downturns also eroded state revenues for the redistribution of land and for basic services.

"We mustn't let this happen," she said. "Dead capital and unrealized potential must be reincarnated by new thinking." *AFP*

Treasury bill rates continue to soften

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

ANTICIPATING a further cut in the central bank's policy rates, the fixed-income market pushed down the yields of treasury bills across three tenors for the fifth straight week, sending even the six-month notes back to a single-digit level and the one-year treasury to its lowest this year.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield and the six-month notes fell by 20 points and 12 points to 8.787 percent and to 9.892 percent, their lowest since July. The rate of the one-year treasuries slid by 12 points to 10.7 percent, its lowest level since October 2000.

The continued decline in treasury rates was boosted by an assurance from Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that the national government would meet its P145-billion budget deficit target this year.

Camacho said the target would be achieved even without the expected P10-billion remittance from the Philippine Estates Authority, which was to get the funds from the sale of a P15-billion property to the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"At the rate we are going, we could meet the deficit target even without the dividends from the PEA. But we still hope the transaction would push through," the finance secretary said.

Camacho added that the Bureau of Internal Revenue was anticipating a higher revenue collection in November, a factor that could help bring down the budget gap.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government was also expecting a P6-billion surplus for December alone, which could help wipe out part of the deficit from the previous months. As of October, the budget gap stood at P133.319 billion.

Deputy Treasurer Jose Antonio Tan said the government believed

TREASURY/ B4

The nation celebrates "Linggo ng Kabataan"

Republic of the Philippines
Sangguniang Kabataan National Federation
Mutucalang, Manila

This year's celebration of the Linggo ng Kabataan emphasizes the health concerns of the youth sector. Corollary to the same, the activities nationwide shall be marked by the simultaneous filing of a proposed ordinance by all Provincial, Highly Urbanized City and Independent Component City SK Presidents in the various local legislative councils, providing for minimum age to purchase tobacco products, restricting youth access to tobacco products and providing for the imposition of fines and penalties for violation thereof. Evidently, in order that the youth can be a productive instrument in nation-building, their right to health should be protected and promoted. Marching towards our national goal of deliverance from whatever wretched condition we may have, we cannot afford a youth sector indulged with health-deteriorating vices like smoking tobacco products.

Let us make this year's event of the Linggo ng Kabataan a venue where we could proudly declare in unison that indeed, we are partners in nation-building.

Mabuhay ang Kabataang Pilipino!

(Sgd) RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA
National SK President
Provincial SK President-Ilocos Norte

From December 10 to 16, 2001 the future leaders of the country will celebrate Linggo ng Kabataan with activities nationwide. Scheduled events include health symposia addressing health issues of the youth, sports tournaments, medical/dental missions, literary competitions and tree-planting/clean-up activities.

The week-long celebration of the Linggo ng Kabataan is mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991 and of Proclamation No. 99. This year's theme is "Sa SK, Sagot namin ang K*!" (Kabataan, Kalusugan, Kalikasan, Kasayahan, Kakayanan, Kaalaman, etc.) It will be jointly sponsored by Philip Morris Philippines Inc. and the Philippine Jaycees.

December 10
- Filing of Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) ordinance by Provincial/HUC/ICC SK Presidents
- Motorcade for YSP
- Ceremonial putting of YSP stickers in sari-sari stores
- Assumption of boy/girl officials for the whole week

December 11
- Opening of sports tournaments

December 12
"Youth Health Day" in coordination with Department of Health (provincial, city, municipal health offices and centers)
- Medical and dental missions
- Health symposia

December 13
- Tree planting/clean-up activities

December 14
- Literary/cultural competitions

December 15
- Recognition of outstanding SK officials and youth leaders

December 16
- Awarding of winners for various competitions
- Conclusion of LNK 2001

For inquiries, call your local Sangguniang Kabataan offices.

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"Sa SK, Sagot namin ang K*!"
Sangguniang Kabataan celebrates Linggo ng Kabataan from December 10 to 16,2001.

Vehicle sales down 9.5%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SLUMP in vehicle sales eased slightly with a modest rebound last month as available cheap financing schemes lured buyers to make their purchases.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Inc. reported that the industry's fall slowed down to a single-digit level last month from two-digit levels through the first 10 months this year.

Sales fell 9.5 percent to 70,233 units in the first 11 months this year from 77,577 during the same period a year ago. The industry posted a rare jump in November as sales surged 17 percent to 6,553 units from 5,600 in November last year.

A number of assemblers undertook an aggressive sales blitz in November anchored on an easy financing scheme. The financing schemes ranged from a minimum P100,000 down payment to low monthly payments payable in five years.

An aggressive auto financing campaign drove industry sales to record highs in 1997 but this turned out to be reckless as a number of banks were left with millions of pesos in unpaid loans and thousands of worthless vehicles.

Sales of passenger cars dropped by a hefty 20 percent to 21,784 units in the first 11 months this year from 27,218 units during the same period last year. Commercial vehicles fell by a modest 3.8 percent to 48,449 units in the first 11 months this year from 50,359 during the same period last year.

But the November sales are likely to be a mere blip as executives continued to have a bleak outlook on sales not only because of weak consumer demand but also due to unfair competition from used vehicles (mostly converted right-hand drive units) imported from abroad.

Toyota Motor Co. Philippines Inc. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. were Nos. 1 and 2 in the industry rankings with sales of 18,035 units (25.6 percent market share) and 15,688 (22 percent), respectively. Isuzu Philippines Corp. was third with sales of 9,258 units (13 percent), Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was fourth with 8,570 (12 percent), and the Nissan group was fifth with combined sales of 7,694 (11 percent) for Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. and Universal Motors Corp.

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ThinkPad T22 (PN 26473EA) ₱ 99,000.00	PIII 800MHz, 128MB RAM, 10GB HDD, 24X CD, 56K Modem, 10/100 Ethernet, 13.3" TFT Display, Windows 98 SE
Netvista S40 (6645N3Q) ₱ 30,000.00	PIII 667MHz, 128MB RAM, 10GB HDD, 24X CD, No Floppy Drive, 10/100 NIC, Windows 2000 Pro, IBM E54 15" Color Monitor

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS week, the Commission on Appointments is taking up the job application of Pantaleon Alvarez, a.k.a. Bebot, for transportation and communications secretary.

By the way, contrary to rumors being spread around by his best friends in Maso, it's not "Kelot"—it's Bebot. It's not as if it's that important. I don't even know if the nickname tells us something about the good secretary's favorite pastime.

I hear, anyway, that his boys are exerting too much effort for his confirmation. Bebot himself comes to the Senate everyday to do lunch with senators. He also drops by the Senate press office to ask for the help of Senate reporters. That worried, huh?

If Bebot is busy lobbying in Congress, aside from working overtime on a personal PR campaign, we can only wonder who is doing his job at the Department of Transportation and Communications. Oh no, please, don't tell me we are on auto-pilot again.

Apparently, Bebot is so worried, he also sends for the Germans. In his frantic attempt for confirmation, the Germans can serve as his *alalays*, este, "allies."

* * *

A TOP executive of the German airport firm Fraport just flew into town in time for Bebot's roasting in the CA. His name is Johannes "Herr" Endler. Herr Endler is a member of the executive board of the German airport company Fraport.

Fraport is a minority stockholder in the firm that made Bebot famous. Yes, it's the one and only Piatco. This company is building the Naia Terminal 3.

People are saying that Piatco's contract with the government smells worse than a dead rat in a pile of rotting garbage in the sewer in Payatas. Hmm. I know it underwent three major facelifts under the administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Yet Bebot does not lift a finger if only to review the contract. He says it's a done deal, and the government cannot change done deals. It's just not done.

It's quite a laudable position. For the first time, a Cabinet member stands up for his principle. To think, Piatco does not even have a contractor in which Bebot has interest. Piatco only has a contractor in which Bebot's wife has a big, major interest.

* * *

IT'S the same contractor which the Germans in Piatco, at one time, questioned for charging too much. You know—it billed Piatco for a ghost job or something.

If Piatco was generous in paying Bebot's wife's company for some mysterious work, maybe it's because Piatco was not spending its money. Up to now, the German firm Fraport is the only one spending for the project.

Piatco cannot draw on its credit lines. The banks won't let it. Thus, Fraport advances the money for the project. It only amounts to about $200 million so far.

But even if all the money comes from the Germans, they still cannot manage the project. Bebot himself said so. When he was still a congressman, as vice chair of the House transportation committee, he wrote the meddling Germans a love letter.

At that time, Bebot told the Germans to leave everything to Jeff Cheng or else . . . He said the Germans couldn't manage the project. They could just spend for it.

* * *

THAT'S probably why the Germans are charging Piatco an arm and a leg, plus a lot of money, for the $200 million in advances. They want to make up for such miscellaneous expenses as ghost jobs done by the company of Bebot's wife.

For the advances, you see, the Germans are charging some five percentage points above Libor. This, in finance, is the equivalent of sexual harassment. Or maybe robbery.

The Philippine government normally pays for interest of only 2 to 3 percent over Libor, depending on the outfit. The Bangko Sentral gets the best rates. The finance department also gets good rates. Napocor cannot even think of borrowing.

Anyway, that interest charge of the Germans, that 5 percent over Libor, usually applies to other countries like Myanmar. That's how highly the Germans regard us.

That's also probably why Herr Endler is here. You see, he is also the finance guy of Fraport. Perhaps he can answer questions in Congress regarding the high regard of his company for the Philippines. So high, in fact, they charge skyhigh rates!

* * *

BUT even I don't think the Germans are worried about congressional investigation. It's easy to fix. Also, whatever happens, with that 5-percent bonanza, they already make money. Provided, of course, the project succeeds, and they get back their investments.

They already have an indication from the Palace of things to come. This cute administration loves the Germans so much, Gloriaetta does not give them the time of day.

At one time, you see, another top executive of Fraport, Roland Koch (pronounced as "cock"), who chairs the supervisory board, visited the country to call on Gloriaetta. Herr Koch waited in the Palace in vain, although I know he was served some coffee.

Gloriaetta is not happy with the Piatco contract! She usually goes out of her way to meet with investors. Gosh, she crosses the ocean for them. Well, not for Herr Koch though.

If Gloriaetta does not even cross the Palace reception hall for the Germans, it must worry Fraport's top executives. Nobody knows what the Fraport stockholders are thinking, but I'm sure this crossed their minds—what if Bebot does not make it?

* * *

AS an indication of how deep the hole that Fraport has dug itself into, Piatco cannot draw on its credit lines, simply because it lacks a little document showing a little opinion.

It's none other than the opinion of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. He only needs to say that the Piatco contract is legal and all. Thus, it is binding—sort of.

As Perez himself said on another deal, the Impsa contract, it's just an opinion! Well, so why can't he write one this time for Piatco? There must be something more to this.

You see, the Piatco contract lasts for a long time. It will have to go through several administrations. Will it really withstand their scrutiny?

Bebot insists it's the best deal the government ever had. Perez doesn't have to believe him. Neither Perez nor his wife had a firm which made a pile out of the project.

If somebody makes money even before a public utility project operates, who eventually pays for it? The Germans? Only you and I pay for everything.

Say what you will about Laar . . . *este*, Nani Perez, but maybe he also thinks of the public good. Let's pray he does not give to pressure exerted on him on this airport sting.

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Coca Cola plans to tie up with Nestlé, Walt Disney

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL soft drink leader Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. will enter into separate joint ventures with Swiss food giant Nestlé S.A. and American entertainment company Walt Disney in food and beverage manufacturing projects. The move is aimed at boosting CCBPI's non-carbonated business next year.

CCBPI president Genaro Lopez told reporters in a recent gathering that the company's thrust was to bring to the Philippines ventures that have worked well for its parent firm, Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co., in the United States.

By the first quarter of next year, Lopez said the company was planning to start manufacturing Nestlé's canned Nestea Iced Tea products. By late next year, he said CCBPI would tie up with Nestlé in the production of yogurt products.

In the case of Walt Disney, Lopez said the company was planning to adopt here an arrangement similar to that between the entertainment firm and Coca Cola Co. in the US. Under their arrangement, Walt Disney develops products for children and ties up with Coca Cola for the commercial production of these products.

Lopez did not say how much in new investments would CCBPI and the two companies pour into the joint ventures, but noted that these activities would bring in more revenues for CCBPI.

CCBPI, whose controlling stake was reacquired by food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. early this year, was made in charge of the P6.9 billion worth of non-alcoholic and non-carbonated businesses of SMC. These include powdered juice and jelly snack maker Sugarland Foods, which was spun off by SMC from its liquor unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

A new unit under CCBPI named Philippine Beverage Partners Inc. was created to handle these businesses.

Lopez said the non-carbonated business was expected to account for 20 percent of CCBPI's portfolio while the soft drink business would still gobble up 80 percent.

Recently, the SMC group forged a deal with RFM Corp. for the purchase of Cosmos Bottling Corp., the second biggest soft drink company in the country, for P14 billion. Once the consolidation is completed, CCBPI will control 90 percent of the entire soft drink market in the country.

Lopez said CCBPI's operating income would be flat this year but increase by as much as 60 percent to a range of P3.5 billion to P4 billion next year once the consolidation is completed.

CCBPI is 65-percent owned by SMC and 35 percent by Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co.

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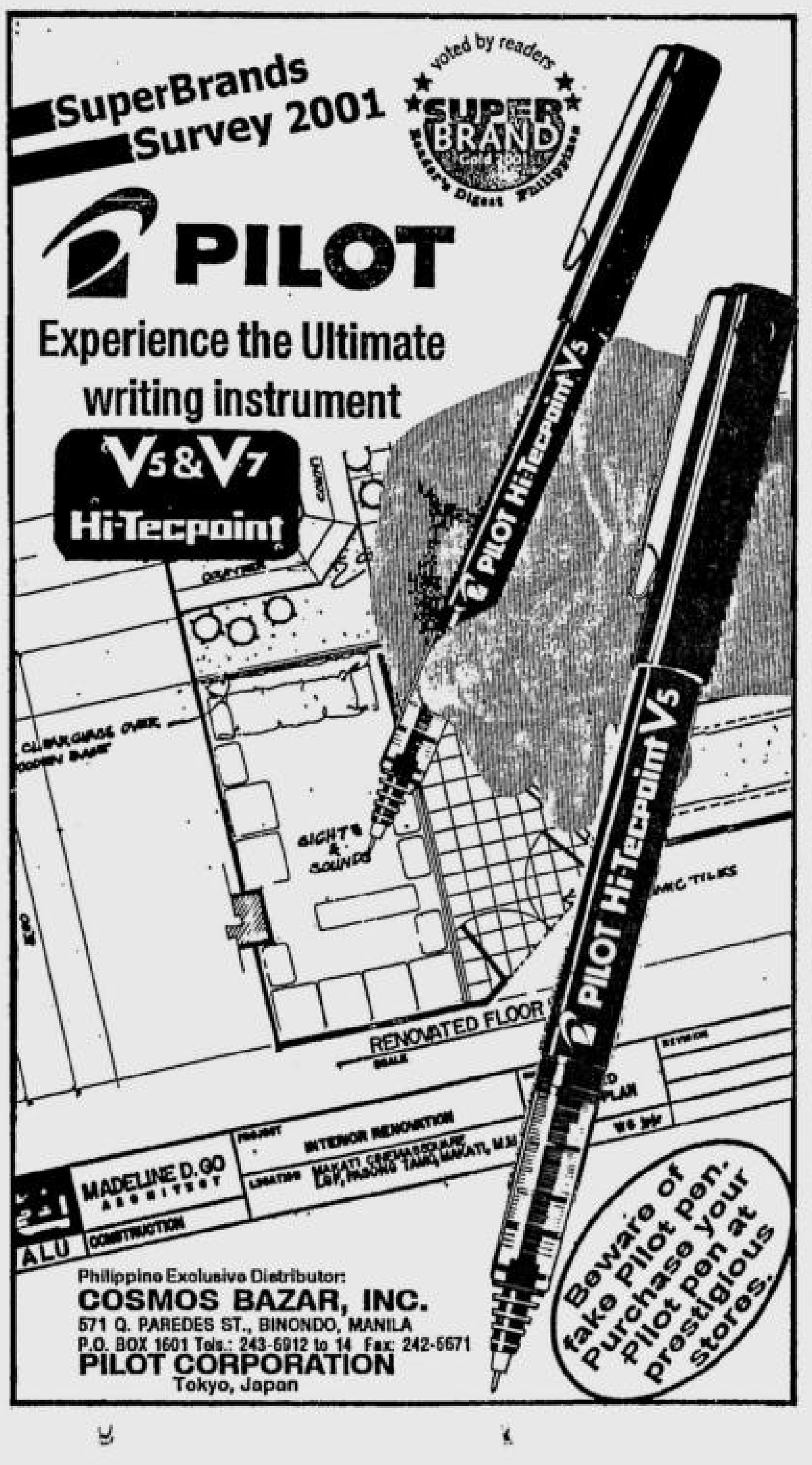

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Tokyo, Japan

DoE head's confirmation pushed

THE PHILIPPINE Rural Electric Cooperatives Association Inc. (Philreca) recently expressed its support for the confirmation of the appointment of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez in a bid to further speed up the implementation of the rural electrification program.

In a letter to the Commission on Appointments, Philreca president Rosalino Culalic cited the support and concern of Perez for the program. The association covers 119 electric cooperatives throughout the country serving some 5.3 million households mostly in the regions.

As energy secretary, Perez sits as chair of the board of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), an attached energy of the Department of Energy (DoE).

The Philreca endorsement was backed by the National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives Inc. which cited the "dynamic leadership" shown by Perez in the pursuit of the Arroyo government's rural electrification goals.

Nagmec president Edilberto Bassig lauded the support of Perez "to the progress and development of electric cooperatives".

BOP deficit to slide to $1B next year, BSP chief predicts

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura expressed confidence yesterday that with better economic prospects, the country's balance-of-payments deficit would go down to $1 billion and its international reserves climb to $15 billion next year.

These figures were the new tentative targets discussed by the central bank with the International Monetary Fund, Buenaventura said.

These targets included a higher 13-percent growth in domestic liquidity, he said.

Buenaventura said he was also confident that the country's gross international reserves would hit $14.5 billion by year's end. As of end-November, the level stood at $14.8 billion, up by $420 million from the previous month's figure.

"I think our GIR would hit $14.5 billion, or even higher, this year with the proceeds from our borrowing as well as from the national government," he said.

He disclosed that the national government had payables of only $200 million as of this month, and that the proceeds from a $406-million yen borrowing had yet to be released.

The recent boost to the country's reserves came mainly from a $550-million, four-year bond offering of the BSP.

Buenaventura forecast that the deficit in the country's balance of payments—a record of its international transactions and commitments—would go down to $1 billion from an early estimate of $1.9 billion to $2.4 billion this year. As a result, he added, the country's dollar reserves should grow to an average of between $14 billion and $15 billion next year.

"There is even a chance that we could show a BOP surplus toward the end of next year, especially if exports improve by 10 percent in the second half. If we are lucky, we could show a growth in exports of about 5 percent, compared with expectations that we would only hit a flat growth next year," he said.

The government expects export receipts to contract by about 15 percent this year following an economic slowdown in the United States and Japan, the country's biggest trading partners.

Buenaventura said it was unlikely that the BOP deficit would reach the BSP's worst-case level of $2.4 billion this year.

SmartLink offered in Batanes

RESIDENTS of areas without cellular phone coverage or landline installations may already have an answer to their telecommunications needs through Smart Communications Inc.'s SmartLink, the country's first fixed satellite service.

The service was launched in the Batanes Islands, the northernmost province in the country.

Smart's president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno said the SmartLink fixed satellite service was in line with the company's thrust to provide reliable and affordable telecom services to the unserved and underserved areas in the country.

Batanes Governor Vicente Gato added that the SmartLink launch in the province "will remove the impression that Batanes is isolated from the rest of the Philippines."

According to end-2000 figures from the National Telecommunications Commission, Batanes has one of the lowest telephone densities, or number of phone lines per 100 people, in the country with only 24 installed lines.

But it also has the country's highest financial resources per capita at P11,182. The average annual family income is placed at P160,355, giving Batanes a fourth place rank in this aspect among all provinces in the country.

SmartLink uses the ACeS (Asia Cellular Satellite) technology spanning the whole Asia-Pacific region, with three in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, and the global mobile personal communications by satellite technology (GMPCS).

GOINGS-ON

New mobile banking service

SECURITY Bank Corp, in partnership with Security International Card Corp., issuers of Diners Club International Cards in the Philippines, recently launched Security MobileBanker.

This mobile banking service allows Diners Club International and Premiere Cardholders access to their deposit accounts via their Smart cellular phones for balance inquiries, fund transfers, over-the-air inquiry, statement requests, change mobile pin and Smart Money reloading.

All Diners Club cardholders who are at the same time SBC account holders and Smart subscribers can also access the Bills Payment System of Security MobileBanker to pay for Diners Club bills.

New player in mall business

CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp. recently opened its very first mall project, Cuevasville Plaza, in Cavite.

The provincial government of Cavite welcomed this development as it urged other investors to take advantage of the province's booming economy.

Cuevasville Plaza is located in the heart of Bacoor. It boasts of first-class shipping convenience and hopes to rival Shoemart and Robinson's malls.

Provincial board member Rafael Rodriguez cited the province's favorable business climate as a come-on to investors. He added that Cavite has been the least affected by the current global economic crisis.

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.4/1.450 M*	Please call/1.5M *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	730,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	120,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000 **	350,000/450,000*/700,000 **
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000 *	100,000/150,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/260,000*/375,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	275,000	300,000/400,000 *
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP. IND.	-	14M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.6 M	2,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/750,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	125,000/145,000 *
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	350,000/500,000 **	400,000/525,000 **
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000 **	230,000/425,000 **
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	140,000	145,000/Please call *
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000/400,000 *
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SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000 **
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SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000 *
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	370,000 *	375,000/750,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	700,000
VALLE VERDE IND	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	6 M	6.3 M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
Need Lessor: Manila Golf Below P300,000 & Tat Filipinas Golf
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods
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G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of December 11, 2001

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,350,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	1,550,000	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	730,000	650,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	200,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	-
Calatagan Golf	90,000	70,000
Canyon Woods	260,000	190,000
Canlubang	650,000	-
Celebrity Sports	195,000	170,000
Eagleridge "A"	340,000	300,000
Eastridge	220,000	-
Fontana "D/C"	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Polo	-	2,500,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Makati Sports Club	350,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	600,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard	230,000	190,000
Orchard "B"	-	250,000
Phil. Columbian	90,000	60,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Punta Fuego	650,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	240,000	-
Riviera Golf	185,000	190,000
Rockwell	450,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	100,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods	120,000	100,000
Subic Bay Yatch Club "Corp"	400,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	175,000	160,000
Valley Golf	250,000	230,000
Wack-Wack Golf	-	6,300,000

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SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
*1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
*2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,000,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	190,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	200,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		280,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
*19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,000,000	12,000.00
*20 MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,700,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000	650,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	300,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	350,000
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
*32 STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	800,000	750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	600,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	180,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	
*38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,300,000	

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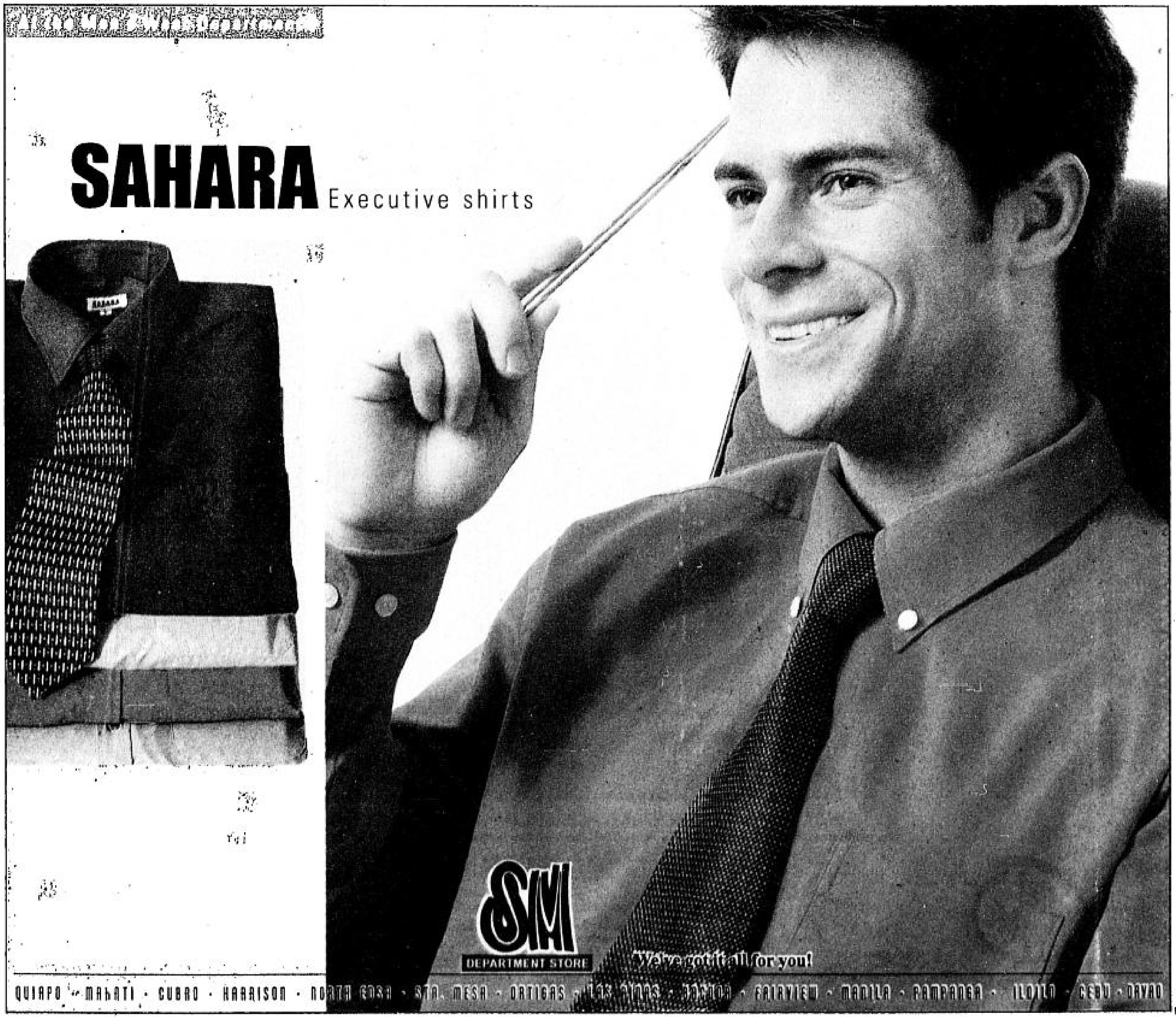
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, December 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	53	52	52.5	308,300
China Banking Corp.	580	590	580	580	3,910
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.5	22.5	22	22	536,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	179	179	175	176	38,250
Philippine National Bank	53	54	53	54	83,800
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	18,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	15	15	14.5	14.5	72,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1365	1365	1365	1365	4,960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1205	1200	1205	5,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	5,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	580	580	580	580	3,420
Ipeople Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	260,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	8,000
Piltel	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.4	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	420	420	405	407.5	142,040
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	61,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	24	23.5	23.5	174,600
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	32.5	30.5	32	2,940,700
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.58	1,995,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	1.96	1.88	1.94	2,846,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	550,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	600,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	24	23.75	24	20,600
RFM Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.14	2.16	1,669,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	746,500
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	49.5	49.5	422,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	695,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.85	715,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	171,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	210,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.46	0.5	0.46	0.5	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.82	0.84	16,150,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27.5	27	27	597,600
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.145	0.145	2,970,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Ionics Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	77,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	265,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	390,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.39	760,000
Music Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.43	0.44	13,390,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	1,720,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	170,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	6,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	210,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	22,300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.68	1.7	1.64	1.64	250,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	94,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	10,000
Far Eastern University	415	415	415	415	50
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4,454,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	1,080,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	240,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	1,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,250,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	2,513,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.2	540,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.9	0.83	0.9	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,844,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.5	3.2	2.5	3.2	177,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	13,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	310,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	82,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,072,590	56,776,200.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	224,743,910	283,545,095.00
PRO	15,251,000	39,405,310.00
Mining	27,499,000	1,109,800.00
OIL	105,190,000	659,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	373,756,500	381,497,705.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	448.01	DOWN 1.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,556.42	DOWN 18.92
PRO	504.52	DOWN 1.74
Mining1,034.38	DOWN 10.79	
OIL	1.86	DOWN 0.15
All Shares Index	710.95	DOWN 1.97
Composite	1,120.83	DOWN 9.37

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 46; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 1,910

CURRENCIES

Dec.10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.123722	1.000000	51.9610
Japan	Yen	0.008954	0.007968	0.4140
United Kingdom	Pound	1.611417	1.434000	74.5121
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144252	0.128370	6.6702
Switzerland	Franc	0.677390	0.602809	31.3226
Canada	Dollar	0.713611	0.635042	32.9974
Singapore	Dollar	0.613218	0.545703	28.3553
Australia	Dollar	0.579537	0.515730	26.7978
Bahrain	Dinar	2.980853	2.652661	137.8349
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299660	0.266667	13.8563
Brunei	Dollar	0.612816	0.545345	28.3367
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025661	0.022836	1.1866
UAE	Dirham	0.306024	0.272331	14.1506
Korea	Won	0.000889	0.000791	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.889900	46.2401
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454999	23.6422
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135664	7.0492
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403819	20.9828
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064672	3.3604
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022060	1.1463
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000460	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.149670	7.7770
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004439	0.2307
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005348	0.2779
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02206	1.1463
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.12994	58.7128

BW stockbrokers offer settlement deals with SEC

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

MANY brokers facing possible administrative sanctions for alleged involvement in insider trading of BW Resources have offered to settle with the Securities and Exchange Commission without admitting guilt or liability, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

"We said we are willing to consider offers in order to save our time and their time," Bautista said.

Last October, the SEC's compliance and enforcement department (CED) recommended that the Commission En Banc, the highest policymaking body of the SEC, institute administrative proceedings against more than 24 individuals and brokerage houses led by businessman Dante Tan in relation to the BW Resources Corp. stock fraud scandal.

In petitions filed with the SEC's office of the general counsel last Oct. 11, the CED noted that Tan, together with various brokerage houses and associates, had engaged in the stock price manipulation of BW Resources through wash sales, matched orders and other manipulative devices.

The CED cited SEC 2000, Belson Securities, A.T. de Castro Securities, Sun Hung Kai Securities Inc., PNB Securities and Mark Securities as among those that allegedly participated in the price manipulation of BW Resources shares.

The CED earlier filed criminal complaints with the justice department against Tan, associate Jimmy Juan and about 50 individuals and brokerage houses regarding the BW Resources stock price manipulation. However, the DOJ, after reviewing the SEC complaint, charged only Tan, Juan and Lim at the Pasig Regional Trial Court. The SEC has a pending motion asking the DOJ to also file suits against the other individuals and brokerage houses implicated by the corporate watchdog.

Meanwhile, Bautista also disclosed that Summit Securities of former PSE chair Harry Liu has also made an offer to settle the case against it with the PSE.

Based on its initial findings, the SEC claimed that Summit Securities engaged in manipulative practices in relation to the trading of the shares of Liberty Telecoms Inc.

An audit conducted by the SEC's broker and dealer division indicated that Summit Securities committed trading irregularities in the form of matched orders when it executed cross trading and settlement transactions on behalf of customers trading Liberty Telecoms shares.

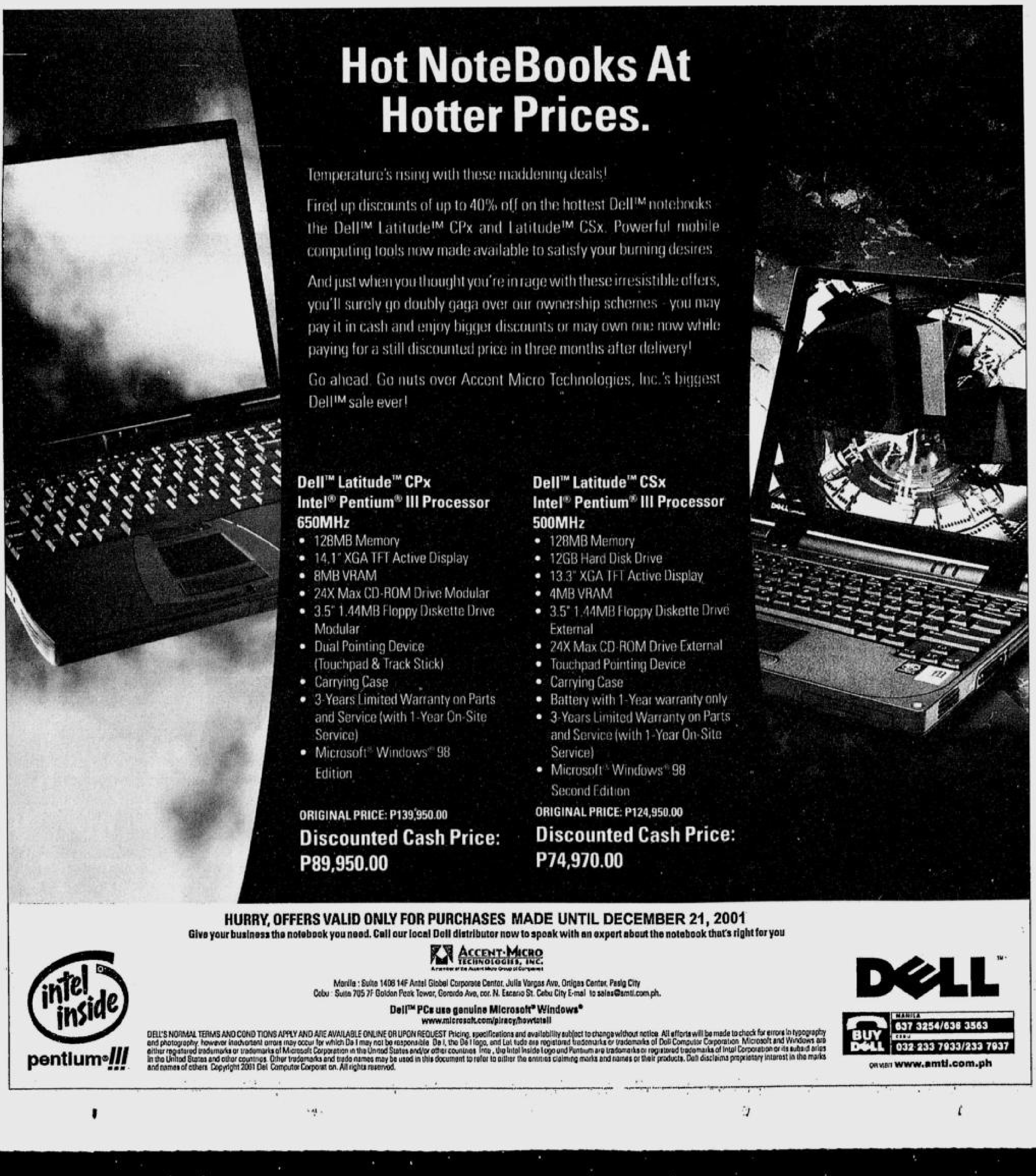
Matched order transactions are illegal. They refer to transactions wherein a person orders the purchase or sale of securities with the knowledge that a simultaneous order or orders of substantially the same size, time and price for the sale or purchase of any security, has or will be entered by or for the same or different parties. Persons involved are generally collaborating to push up the price of securities.

"Review of order tickets indicated that cross trading of both the buy and sell transactions was made on the same time of the day for the said issue. Likewise, parties were somewhat related because the sellers have stockholdings in the buyers, which were all corporations whose paid-up capital ranged from P1 million to P12.5 million and were incorporated from Feb. 28 to July 12 this year," the brokers division noted.

"No actual payment was made for the buy transactions by the buyers and no remittance was done by the subject company to the sellers," the SEC division added.

Between June 21 and Aug. 13 this year, Liberty shares were heavily traded as a result of several pre-negotiated buying and selling or "cross sales," all of which were done by Summit Securities alone.

The SEC broker and dealer division also said it discovered that Summit Securities also committed other violations of securities rules and laws, in particular, rules on client agreement, confirmation of customer orders, margin and net capital.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Dell™ Latitude™ CSx
Intel® Pentium® III Processor
500MHz

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- 4MB VRAM
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Treasury bill rates continue to soften

(From page B1)

the borrowing rate of the government as reflected by the treasury yields would soften by another 10 to 20 basis points next week, the last auction for the year.

The Bureau of Treasury will hold today the last auction of treasury bonds for 2001. The government will sell P3 billion worth of two-year bonds.

"The decline in rates is a continued reaction to the cut in the bank reserve requirement and the central bank's cut in overnight rates. We are already in single digit for the three-month and the six-month notes," Tan said.

The central bank had cut bank reserve requirements by two percentage points to 18 percent and the overnight rates by a quarter-of-a-percentage point to 8 percent for borrowing and 10.25 percent for lending.

Traders pointed to a fresh statement from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that another quarter-point cut in its policy rates would be considered this week if the US Federal Reserve would also reduce its short-term rates. The Fed is scheduled to meet later tonight.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had said that local monetary authorities could match the expected quarter-point cut in US rates this week.

Buenaventura said the yield of the benchmark 91-day treasury bill should fall to 8.25 percent in next week's auction.

The government raised P3.5 billion in yesterday's auction from offers that ex

China joins WTO; battle for reform begins

BEIJING—After 15 years of negotiations and with new regulations still being frantically drafted, China was counting down yesterday the final hours to formally becoming a World Trade Organization member.

China and its 1.3 billion people will join the WTO today, the end of a 30-day countdown period that began when entry formalities were completed at a meeting of the global trade group in Qatar last month.

The first processes of opening up will begin the very same day.

From Tuesday, overseas banks in some cities will be allowed to offer foreign exchange services to business and individual customers, the state China Daily newspaper reported.

The regulations under which they can apply to offbr the services were announced by China's central bank only on Sunday, illustrating how the rules governing the country's WTO membership are being drafted very much on the hoof.

A complex series of other economic opening-up and tariff reduction measures will be introduced over a period ranging from weeks to years.

China's membership of the WTO will have a dramatic and, to an extent, unpredictable effect on the country and its people, observers agree.

Over the weekend, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji urged a seminar of senior officials to study and understand the WTO's rules to ensure steady economic development as well as social stability.

"Whether the gains are larger than the losses will depend on our work," said Zhu, the China Daily reported.

Normally, after receiving approval from existing WTO members, a country has the decision ratified by its national parliament before waiting the 30-day period for accession.

But China was in such a hurry to join, officials circumvented any delays by arranging for its legislature, the National People's Congress, to ratify the WTO decision on Aug. 25, months before it had even been taken.

Observers say Chinese leaders have been desperately keen to join the trade group by the end of a year that has already seen Beijing secure the 2008 Olympics and its footballers qualify for their first World Cup Finals.

However, the hard work still lies ahead as China drafts new laws and regulations to equip the country for greater foreign competition, and local firms try to bring their staff up to speed with international standards.

Last month, a survey conducted by the Development Research Center attached to China's cabinet, the State Council, found that many Chinese executives had only the most cursory understanding of the WTO rules. *AFP*

POSITIVE TO DISASTROUS IMPACT

BEIJING—China's industries will see widely divergent impacts, ranging from near-disastrous to very positive, after the country's entry into the World Trade Organization, according to analysts. China will become the 143rd member of the global trade body today, 30 days after signing a membership agreement at a WTO meeting in Qatar. Below is a list of industries expected to be fundamentally changed by China's accession:

Agriculture. China's farmers have widely been named the big losers of the country's entry into the WTO. Once called a success story, they have fallen hopelessly behind and have few chances against the more efficient production methods of their foreign competitors. Although the full impact of membership will not be felt during the first several years, it will eventually kick in.

Steel. Steel makers, which have benefited for years from government protection and high prices at home, are also expected to face formidable challenges once in the WTO. Steel producers, like many other state-owned enterprises, are leftovers from the planned economy, struggling with a bloated workforce and fossilized management practices.

Autos. China has agreed to cut the import tariff for automobiles to 25 percent from currently as much as 80 percent over the first six years after accession. As early as Jan. 1, the first step will be taken as duties on cars of more than 3,000 cc will be reduced to 50.7 from 80 percent and to 43.8 from 70 percent for cars of less than 3,000 cc.

Telecommunications and the Internet. China's telecommunications industry, still bloated by decades of government pampering, is in for a major overhaul, analysts say. China will allow increased foreign participation in value-added telecommunications services, which significantly includes the sensitive Internet area.

Financial services. The financial sector, which includes sensitive areas such as banks and insurance businesses, is unlikely to see any immediate major changes after WTO entry. This is because China's government, only too aware of the need to protect the financial system that forms the backbone for the rest of the economy, has deliberately negotiated a gradual opening-up.

Textiles. Textile manufacturers could become the big beneficiaries of China's WTO entry. The main reason is that quotas that have previously limited their access to the world markets will formally end in 2005, although restrictions under a "safeguard" system will be in place until 2008. According to some projections, as many as 5 million new jobs could be created in the textile and apparel sector because of the positive impact of WTO membership.

Electronics. China is one of the world's fastest-growing producers of cheap electronics, especially for household segments. Its shipments to overseas markets are likely to increase with WTO membership, at the expense of competing low-cost producers in neighboring countries. ***AFP***

US Fed to cut rates amid jobs carnage

WASHINGTON—US Federal Reserve policymakers, fighting to drag the terror-shaken economy out of recession amid carnage in the labor market, are poised to cut rates for the 11th time this year.

Members of the Federal Open Market Committee will meet on Tuesday (tonight in Manila) to consider lowering interest rates after government figures showed the economy destroyed nearly 800,000 jobs in the past two months.

The unemployment rate soared to a six-year high of 5.7 percent in November from 5.4 percent in October, the government said Friday, shattering emerging confidence in a recovery.

Japan darkened the overseas horizon by sliding into its third recession in a decade. Gross domestic product contracted 0.5 percent in the third quarter after a 1.2-percent decline in the second quarter.

Economists forecast a cut in the key US federal funds rate of 0.25 percentage points, perhaps as much as 0.5 percentage points, in reaction to the deepening gloom.

"Another truly awful jobs report puts pressure on the Fed to move 50 basis points next Tuesday," Economic Advisors president and chief economist Joel Naroff said.

Friday's employment report showed the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks helped to evaporate 331,000 jobs. A total 468,000 were lost the previous month.

"This report was about as ugly as it gets," said Naroff.

"About the only thing remotely positive you can say about this report is that the employment data tend to be lagging indicators so maybe we are seeing the worst of the worst," he said.

"That, of course, is not something the Fed can take to the bank. The markets have been pricing in a 25-basis-point decline but that small a move would seem silly in the face of the extreme weakness in the labor markets," Naroff added. *AFP*

US Steel, NKK in merger talks to fight rivals

WASHINGTON—Buffeted by foreign competition, two leading US steel makers announced Sunday that they had begun merger talks as part of efforts to achieve greater consolidation of the national steel industry.

In a statement released simultaneously in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Mishawaka, Indiana, the US Steel and National Steel corporations added that the deal was not yet in the offing.

But US Steel acknowledged that it had entered talks with NKK Corp. of Japan, the owner of National Steel, regarding a possible acquisition of the Indiana-based concern.

"Any acquisition would be contingent on a number of significant conditions, including a substantial restructuring of National Steel's debt and other obligations," US Steel cautioned.

The Pittsburgh-based company said it would proceed with the deal "only if the acquisition would be in the best interests" of its shareholders, customers, employees and creditors.

National Steel stressed, for its part, that the potential deal was subject to "significant risks and uncertainties, and there can be no assurance that a definitive agreement will be entered into."

National Steel is one of the nation's largest producers of carbon flat-rolled steel products, with annual output reaching approximately 6 million tons. *AFP*

Japan's UFJ to sell US unit to BNP Paribas

TOKYO—Japanese mega-bank UFJ Holdings Inc. said yesterday it would sell its US subsidiary, United California Bank, to France's BNP Paribas for $2.4 billion to improve its financial strength.

UFJ Holdings, the fifth biggest financial group in the world, said it would complete the sale by the end of March 2002 after receiving regulatory approval.

"As part of the restructuring of the UFJ group designed to strengthen our finances, we have decided on the sale of this 100-percent subsidiary, which is held by (group units) Sanwa Bank and Tokai Bank," UFJ said in a statement.

UFJ will earn a profit of 170 billion yen ($1.4 billion) from the sale, some of which will go to provisioning for a mountain of bad loans, said a spokesperson.

The group expects to write-off some 2 trillion yen in bad loans this fiscal year in line with a government drive to force banks to reduce bad debts to safe levels within three years. *AFP*

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ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines at 50

MESSAGES

ALLOW me to extend my warmest felicitations to the officers and staff of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines on the occasion of their 50th year of service to the Philippines.

In its five decades of uninterrupted service to our country, KLM has been instrumental in helping forge a vibrant relationship between the Filipino and the Dutch people not only in the area of civil aviation, but more importantly in the fields of commerce, trade, culture and technology. KLM has significantly contributed to the rapid development of Philippine aviation through its partnership with our national airline. Under this partnership, KLM provided training of pilots, aircraft maintenance and aircraft leasing.

The air transportation industry worldwide is in recession as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in the U.S. Despite this, our administration feels confident that, with the help of dynamic companies like the KLM, the airline industry will be able to immediately recover and overcome the present challenges.

I enjoin all of you to persevere in your commitment of delivering quality service to the people. May you reach greater heights of achievement in the aviation industry.

More power and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY CONGRATULATIONS and warm greetings to the management and staff of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines on the occasion of its 50th year of flying the Philippine skies.

As one of the world's leading airline companies, KLM has demonstrated its commitment to helping develop our country's civil aviation industry and promote better trade and commerce between the Netherlands and Philippines.

I hope that this important milestone in the history of KLM will lead to an even more fruitful and meaningful relationship between our two countries.

Mabuhay!

PANTALEON ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism proudly salutes KLM Royal Dutch Airlines on its 50th year of serving the Filipino traveler.

KLM's 50 years of uninterrupted service to Manila is a testimony of its reliability, predictability, stability and efficiency as one of the world's leading airlines.

It likewise presents a clear affirmation of the importance of Manila as a strategic travel hub for Asia.

KLM, therefore, has been a vital instrument in promoting not only trade and commerce but also tourism between the Philippines and The Netherlands.

Because tourism offers opportunities to promote a country in the global arena, it is important that partnership with global leaders in civil aviation be established.

I am optimistic that our partnership with KLM will help us sustain tourism-related development in the face of rapid changes in the world civil aviation industry.

Mabuhay!

RICHARD GORDON
Secretary
Department of Tourism

THIS YEAR marks the 50th year of KLM's service to Manila. On this occasion, I commend the men and women of KLM for making the airline reach this milestone.

Despite upheavals in the world civil aviation industry, KLM continues its tradition of reliability, efficiency and stability. I am gratified that the national airline of The Netherlands has grown into a world leader in a challenging industry.

The exciting dynamism during its 50-year Philippine history indicates KLM's role in helping develop the country's civil aviation – training of pilots, aircraft maintenance and leasing of aircraft.

Rest assured that our government is focused on continuing our long-term relationship in development, trade, culture, technology and civil aviation.

THEO ARNOLD
Ambassador of The Netherlands

MY WARMEST greetings to all the staff of KLM Philippines on the occasion of the airline's 50th year of service to Manila. From a modest staff of 9 in 1951, KLM has grown to be one of the leading foreign airlines servicing Filipino travelers.

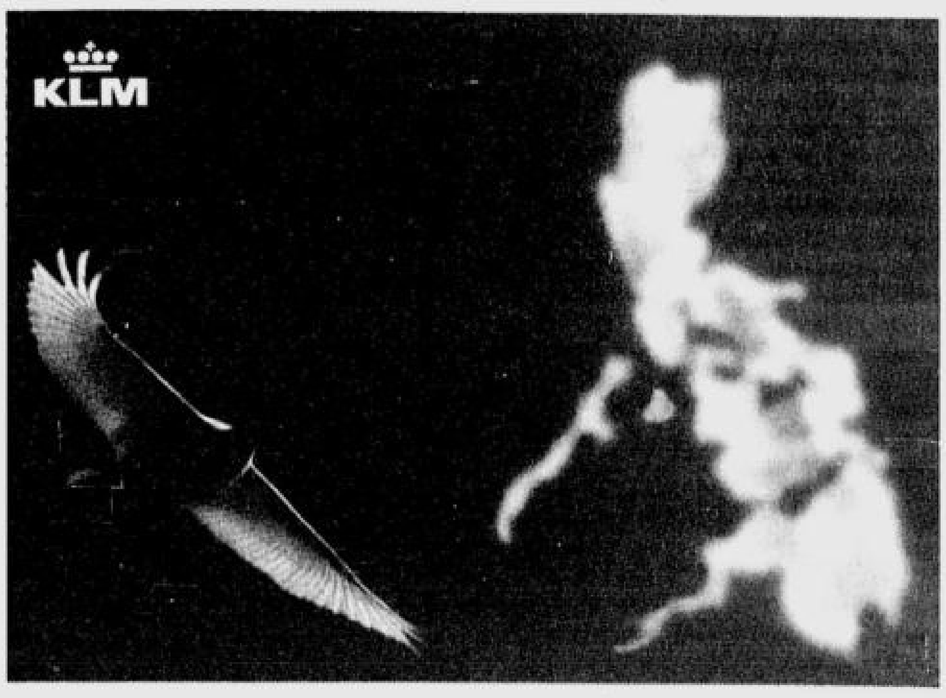
As we celebrate this golden anniversary, I commend the Manila staff for their dedication and efforts to develop strategies and approaches in a very challenging industry. I hope that this important event will continue to serve as an inspiration as we adapt to the rapid changes taking place in the global arena.

KLM's records show that it has had 15 general managers during the 50 year operational period. All have witnessed the growth of KLM both locally and internationally, as it has evolved into a leading international carrier; gaining respect of the industry as the world's most reliable airline.

Our airline has taken its place as one of the world's leading carriers due to a wise investment strategy not only in aircraft but also in staff and personnel. KLM will continue to offer new and improved services for the Filipino travelers bound for overseas or returning home from work or holidays.

RICHARD A. OLIVER
General Manager Southeast Asia II

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines marks 50th year of flying Filipinos



THIS YEAR, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines celebrates her 50th year of service to Manila and the 82nd year since start-up operations in Holland.

KLM established its office in the Philippines on Dec. 4, 1951, at Bayview Hotel with a staff of nine. Shortly after, it moved its office to Philamlife Building where it stayed for 22 years.

When airline offices started moving to Makati, KLM followed and invested some P4 million in a new office. The airline now occupies the entire 8th floor of the Athenaeum Building at 160 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City for general offices. A part of the ground floor, which is also owned by KLM, is used as reservations and ticketing office.

Since 1951, KLM Philippines has had 15 general managers, 14 were Dutch nationals and the current regional manager, Richard A. Oliver, is a British national.

In the five decades of uninterrupted scheduled services to the Philippines, our 80-year old airline has become a monolith in the sky. It has continued to grow and its worldwide slogan "The Reliable Airline" conveying attributes of stability, predictability and permanence, shows no sign of becoming shopworn and an empty advertising line.

With a clockwork precision, KLM flight departures and arrivals in Manila and all major airports in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas continue to be always on time. In fact, they're used to reckon the correct time of day or night all the airport stops KLM makes.

The company's Philippines scrapbook of candid photos, old letters, memos, used air ticket and other memorabilia tells another aspect of the KLM story. The exciting dynamism during its 50 year Philippine history.

One section of the KLM Manila scrapbook in particular, describes the evolution from the slow, lazy days of jet propeller-driven aircraft to today's sleek jumbo jets that fly from 30-35,000 feet in the skies.

The first flight from Amsterdam to Tokyo via Manila and Sydney was served by a 61-passenger Lockheed Constellation and graduated to Lockheed's "Super Connies" with 87 passengers in 1955. In 1960, KLM operated the Douglas DC-8-30 with 133 passengers capacity.

In 1962, KLM and Philippine Airlines signed a cooperative agreement. PAL resumed services to the U.S. using DC-8 aircrafts under lease from KLM. The cooperative agreement provided, among others, training of PAL pilots and aircraft maintenance. A second DC-8 aircraft was leased to PAL the following year.

Acknowledging the KLM contribution to the rapid development of Philippine civil aviation, the late president Ferdinand Marcos conferred special honors on the KLM president then—Sergio Orlandini. It was the first time for the KLM organization to receive a commendation from a sovereign nation other than its home country, the Netherlands.

In 1967, a DC-8F jet freighter aircraft was added and later in the year the long body DC-8-63, with a capacity of 265 passengers began its twice-weekly services.

In 1968, a combined PAL/KLM flight marked the resumption of PAL's European services after 25 years, with a once-a-week flight.

Since then, the fleet services were improved to 747B jumbo jet in 1971, to an all B747 service operations in 1979, in the Far East.

In 1981, was the introduction of the business class service in the Far East.

In 1993, there was a change in aircraft from 747-400 to B744.

In 1995, the Fifth Freedom rights took effect for Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.

In 1997, Kuala Lumpur was withdrawn for the summer schedule and replaced with Bangkok.

In 1999, for summer schedule, three flights a week took effect and Kuala Lumpur was put back to replace Bangkok.

For winter schedule, four flights a week took effect.

In 2001, for summer schedule, four flights a week were returned and Kuala Lumpur was replaced by Bangkok.

KL879-Amsterdam-Bangkok-Manila every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and KLM880-Manila-Bangkok-Amsterdam every Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

For the winter schedule, KLM's 4-time weekly service between Manila and Amsterdam via Bangkok is currently operating 5 times weekly via Kuala Lumpur. Celebrating 50 years of service to the Philippines with one more flight bridging Manila to Europe five times weekly.

KLM's five weekly flights to/from Manila, which took effect Oct. 29, are as follows: Manila-Amsterdam – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Departure is at 8:30 p.m. Amsterdam-Manila – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Departure time is at 7:20 p.m.

Meanwhile, the reliable airline of the Dutch continues to fly with always on-time departure-arrival for Filipino travellers bound for overseas or returning home from work or holiday overseas.

50 years, 15 managers later, KLM's 'most reliable airline' reputation still unmatched

BY TONY ZORRILLA

THIS YEAR, the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines celebrates its 50th year of service to Manila and the 82nd year since start-up operations in Holland. KLM also inaugurated its 5-time weekly service from Manila to Europe.

Flight KL808 from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport equipped with the latest B747-400 jumbo, touches down in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia tonight for a brief stopover before proceeding "nonstop" to Schiphol airport.

In the five decades of its uninterrupted flights to the Philippines, the 82-year old airline has become a monolith in the sky while going through 15 changes of "country managers" in Manila. Significantly, despite changes in management, it has continued to grow and its worldwide slogan of "world's most reliable" conveying attributes of stability, predictability, permanence, shows no sight of becoming shopworn and an empty advertising line.

With near monotonous precision, KLM flight departures and arrivals in Manila and all major airports of Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas continue to be always on time. In fact, they're used to reckon the correct time of day or night all the airport stops KLM makes.

The company's Philippine scrapbook of candid photos, letters, memos, used air tickets and other memorabilia tells another aspect of the KLM story. The exciting dynamism during its 50-year Philippine history.

One section of the KLM Manila scrapbook in particular, describes the evolution from the slow, lazy days of jet propeller-driven aircraft to today's sleek jumbo jets that fly from 30-35,000 feet in the skies.

There was obviously a purpose to encouraging the succession of 15 different young Europeans to manage her Manila operations since it begun in 1952. Every KLM past manager differed in management style and in their ways of winning Filipino patrons and friends for the airline. In the end, their combined influence on the Manila operation of KLM has produced one of the most successful and outstanding customer relation records by a foreign air carrier.

Below is a list of the KLM manager assignees to Manila over a period of 50 years. Are you old enough to remember any of them?

GMC Terry Kolff - 1952, Anton Burghard - 1957, Rene Sparenberg - 1963, Alex van Nijnnaten - 1966, Arnold Johannes - 1970, Jacobus "Co" Dekker - 1973, Erick van Heswyck - 1979, Franz Grubber - 1980, Rudolf Klerekoper - 1984, Jan Creutzberg - 1990, JWJ Verhey van Wijk - 1993, Jan de Vries - 1995, Henri Hemmer - 1997, Roger Johannes - 2001, Richard Oliver - current manager.

KLM had partnership and cooperation with the national flag carrier. All PAL pilots for international flight assignments were trained and checked-out by KLM's head office in Amstelveen.

Acknowledging the KLM contribution to the rapid development of Philippine civil aviation, the late President Ferdinand Marcos conferred special honors on the KLM president then—Sergio Orlandini. It was to be the first time for the KLM organization to receive a commendation from a sovereign nation other than its home country, the Netherlands.

The many of the chaps who ran KLM's early operations in Manila are now retired from the company. Some have moved on to other travel-related businesses in Europe, USA, Africa and Canada. And a few have departed for the greatest and ultimate destination of man.

Meantime, "The Reliable Airline" of the Dutch continues to fly with monotonously always on-time departure-arrival performance for the Filipino travelers overseas bound or returning home from work or holidays overseas.

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How do I request a PIN?

Your PIN can be any four-digit number that is easy for you to remember, except 0000. To create your PIN, click here. A PIN cannot be created by a Northwest representative. When creating a PIN, you will be required to provide your Zip/Postal code if it is on file with WorldPerks. Some areas in the Asia Pacific region either do not have postal codes or have recently changed postal codes. To see what address information is on file with WorldPerks, simply check your last mileage summary or mailing from WorldPerks or contact your local WorldPerks Service Center.

Can I change my PIN?

Yes, you can change your PIN as needed. Log on to www.klm.com.ph.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

KLM in perspective

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines was founded on Oct. 7, 1919. It has continued to operate under the same name to this day, making it the oldest scheduled airline in the world with a continuous history. The carrier's first scheduled flight, on May 17, 1920, connected Amsterdam and London. By the end of that year the company had carried 345 passengers, 22 tons of cargo and 3 tons of mail. The airline operated its first intercontinental flight to Indonesia, then still the Dutch East Indies, in October 1924. Regular scheduled flights to the Far East began in 1929. The route remained the world's longest until the outbreak of World War II.

KLM aircraft continued to fly from England throughout the war, but operations from its homebase, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, had to be reconstructed from zero in 1945. Albert Plesman, who had founded and led the airline from the beginning, threw himself into this task with the same energy he had applied to the pre-war company. By the autumn of 1945, Far Eastern services had recommenced and in May 1946, KLM was the first continental European airline to open transatlantic services to the USA.

KLM now

In the fiscal year 1999/2000 KLM carried 15,742 million passengers and 576,000 tons of cargo and mail. KLM ranks seventh among the more than 250 IATA member-airlines in terms of international revenue ton-kilometers flown. KLM and its partners serve over 500 cities in 98 countries on six continents. The number of employees as of March 31, 200 was 30,159, of whom 26,084 were employed in the Netherlands and 4,075 abroad.

The company's modern fleet, with that of its regional subsidiary KLM cityhopper, stands at 125 aircraft. Averaging eight years in age, it is one of the world's youngest fleets.

Fiscal 1999/2000 turnover was NLG 13,875 million. Approximately 13 percent of this total is earned from work for third parties. This includes aircraft maintenance and handling, leasing of aircraft, and catering and training programs for flight and ground personnel.

Mission statement

KLM is a key player in a strong global alliance that is developing and operating a worldwide airline system spanning the world's three major trading blocks: America, Europe and Asia. KLM aims to be the first-choice passenger and cargo airline and provider of maintenance services, while consistently enhancing shareholder value, providing a stimulating and dynamic working environment for its employees and participating in mutually beneficial relationships with partners.

Goals

KLM is committed to generating customer preference by offering a high-quality product at a competitive price; strengthening market presence, in part through alliances with other carriers; and achieving internationally competitive cost levels, on a sound financial basis.

> KLM aims to be the first-choice passenger and cargo airline and provider of maintenance services, while consistently enhancing shareholder value, providing a stimulating and dynamic working environment for its employees and participating in mutually beneficial relationships with partners

Fiercer competition: tighter alliances

The pace of competition in the global aviation industry is accelerating fast. KLM is facing competition from two sides. On the one, there are the American mega-carriers flying directly from their domestic U.S. hubs to European destinations. The second challenge comes from Far Eastern carriers which have flourished in their domestic markets with efficient hubs and relatively low costs. These are now rapidly expanding across the world. On the cargo market, the challenge comes from the integrators with their door-to-door freighting product. Among the European airlines, the trial of strength has intensified in recent years. The liberalized European market has led airlines to work hard at achieving as strong a position as possible.

KLM's goal is to enter into partnerships and to find support points in and outside Europe through which the company can strengthen its market position and cut its cost levels. KLM forms the core of the KLM Group, other members being KLM cityhopper, KLM uk and Transavia. In pursuit of this strategy, KLM has a strong alliance with Northwest Airlines in the U.S.

Evironmental strategy

KLM is well aware that the issue of the environment is crucial to the continuity of the company and the relationship with its customers and stakeholders. Therefore KLM has chosen to take an active stance on the issue. Its emphasis will be on concrete and visible activities to improve environmental performance on a continuous basis and to communicate this internally and externally. It goes without staying that it will not be enough to simply meet the legal environmental requirements. The core points of an active environmental stance are reflected in:

- annual objectives and concrete measures for all relevant environmental aspects
- effective internal and external communication, which serves to establish KLM's reliability among the general public
- actively obtaining commitment and cooperation on the part of stakeholders and business partners in achieving KLM's aims.

To support its active environmental stance KLM maintains an Environmental Management System in line with the ISO-14001 standard. In December 1999 KLM became the first airline in the world to receive the ISO 14001 certification. The company approaches the issue structurally and systematically. Each year an environmental program is put together, which forms an integral component of the business activities. Concrete environmental measures are included in the business plans of each business unit and there is regular assessment and follow-up regarding the agreements reached. The issue of the environment has a clear place in KLM's corporate culture. Good environmentally-orientated ideas and initiatives from staff are appreciated and rewarded. Information and training are essential elements in achieving the goals.

All environmental objectives and measures are published annually in the Environmental Annual Report.

Fleet

KLM: 21 Boeing 747-400s, incluidng 16 Combis; 13 Boeing 747-300s, including 8 Combis and 2 Freighters; 15 Boeing 737-300s; 14 Boeing 737-400s; 13 Boeing 737-800s; 10 McDonnell Douglas MD-11s; 12 Boeing 767-300Ers

Currently on order: 3 Boeing 747-400 Combi; delivery 2002, 2004 and 2005; 4 Boeing 737-900s; delivery 2001

KLM Cityhopper: 13 Fokker 50s, 14 Fokker 70s

Schiphol, homebase to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Schiphol has remained homebase to KLM from the airline's very beginning, more than eighty years ago. That muddy 1920 airstrip has grown to become one of the world's major international airports. KLM makes grateful use of Schiphol's high reputation in the company's promotional activities around the globe. The airport's handling facilities for aircraft, cargo and passengers alike are excellent.

The advantages it offers to passengers include easy accessibility aided by the rail line passing directly under the airport terminal, an integral link in the Dutch and European rail networks. There is more. It's one-terminal concept enables transit passengers to connect smoothly from one flight to another. The tax-free shopping center is regarded as one of the best and cheapest in the world. Business and VIP lounges, a special room for parents to attend to their babies' needs, a "Junior Jet" lounge for children traveling alone and many other details complete the picture.

The airport's cargo handling facilities deserve a special mention. Rapid transfer of airfreight in and out of Schiphol is greatly facilitated by the airport's bonded warehousing. Cargo can be stored there and re-exported without payment of import duty. KLM's three highly automated cargo terminals enable shippers and forwarders to guarantee a fast passage for their consignments. Various major global enterprises have set up distribution centers at or near the airport for supplying their European outlets and, in some cases, Africa and the Middle East as well. The airport profits from its strategic geographical position, making it a natural gateway to Europe.

In 2000, Schiphol ranked fourth (after London, Paris and Frankfurt) among Europe's airports for passenger traffic and third (after London and Frankfurt) for freight. Some 39 million passengers and 1.2 million tons of freight passed through the airport in that year.

World Business Class: a new dimension in personal space

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Physical comfort

Like a beautifully made armchair or the well-upholstered seat in a luxury car, you will feel immediately at home in KLM's World Business Class seat.

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But all we really want you to notice is just how comfortable you are.

Emotional comfort

Now that you are sitting comfortably, we would like you to enjoy your time with us to the fullest.

The warm and genuine greeting onboard would have made you feel welcome. But what you may at first find surprising is how we tailor our service around how you want to spend your time.

Choose your favorite three-course meal. Will it be The Chef's Suggestion, created by 'De Gilde van Meesterkoks' (The Dutch guild of master chefs)? Or the savory Asian dishes? Or a more traditional selection? And complement it with your choice from our wide array of drinks and refreshments.

Take a Skybreak. Snacks and drinks served in the galley at any time.

Sleep or supper. On late night departures, choose between a full meal, a light meal or a plate of delicate appetizers. And wake up to your breakfast a-la-carte.

Immerse yourself with a magazine from our choice selection or simply relax in our new well-cradled seats undisturbed.

Fly World Business Class and you will enjoy service that is intelligent not intrusive, that is flexible not unrelenting, from people who take great pride in what they do.

More time to enjoy

We understand how precious your time is. We aim to make your life a little bit easier and take the hassle out of flying, so that we can give you more time to relax and enjoy the good things.

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Now relax in the three new, improved lounges at Schiphol. Maybe finish some work, catch up with the news or enjoy a refreshing drink. It's really up to you.

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However you choose to spend your time, there'll be that little bit more of it that'll make all the difference.

Partners in perfection

Whatever we do, we all look for partners with whom we can work to make a winning team.

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You will notice all KLM and Northwest Airlines' improvements being phased in from Fall 2000 to Summer 2001.

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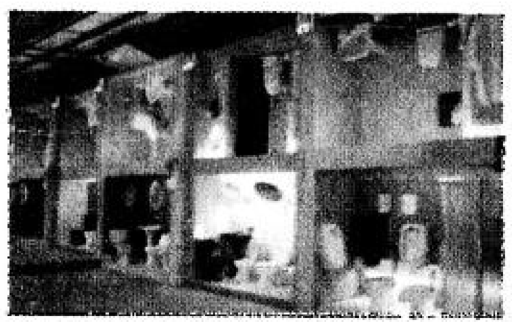
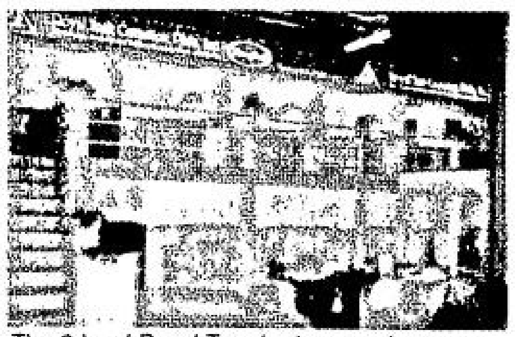

The unique 12-module bathroom showcase by HCG inside Federal Hardware-Makati


The 2-level Royal Tern bathroom showcase concept inside Federal Hardware-Makati

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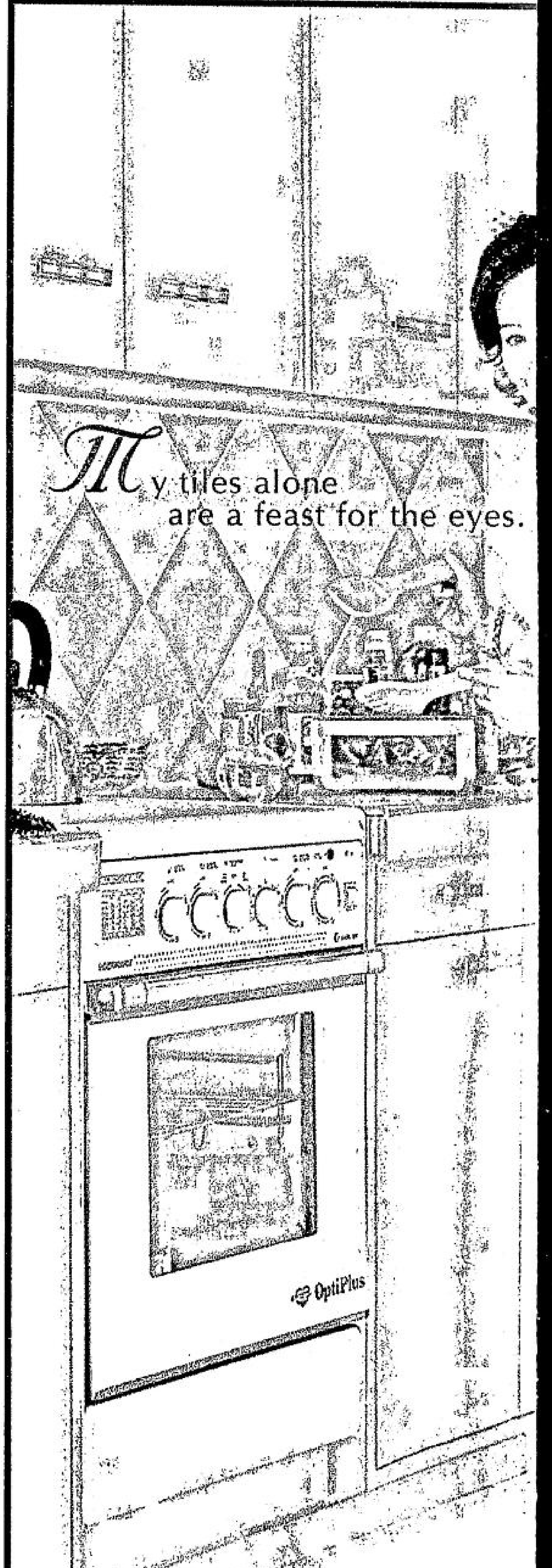

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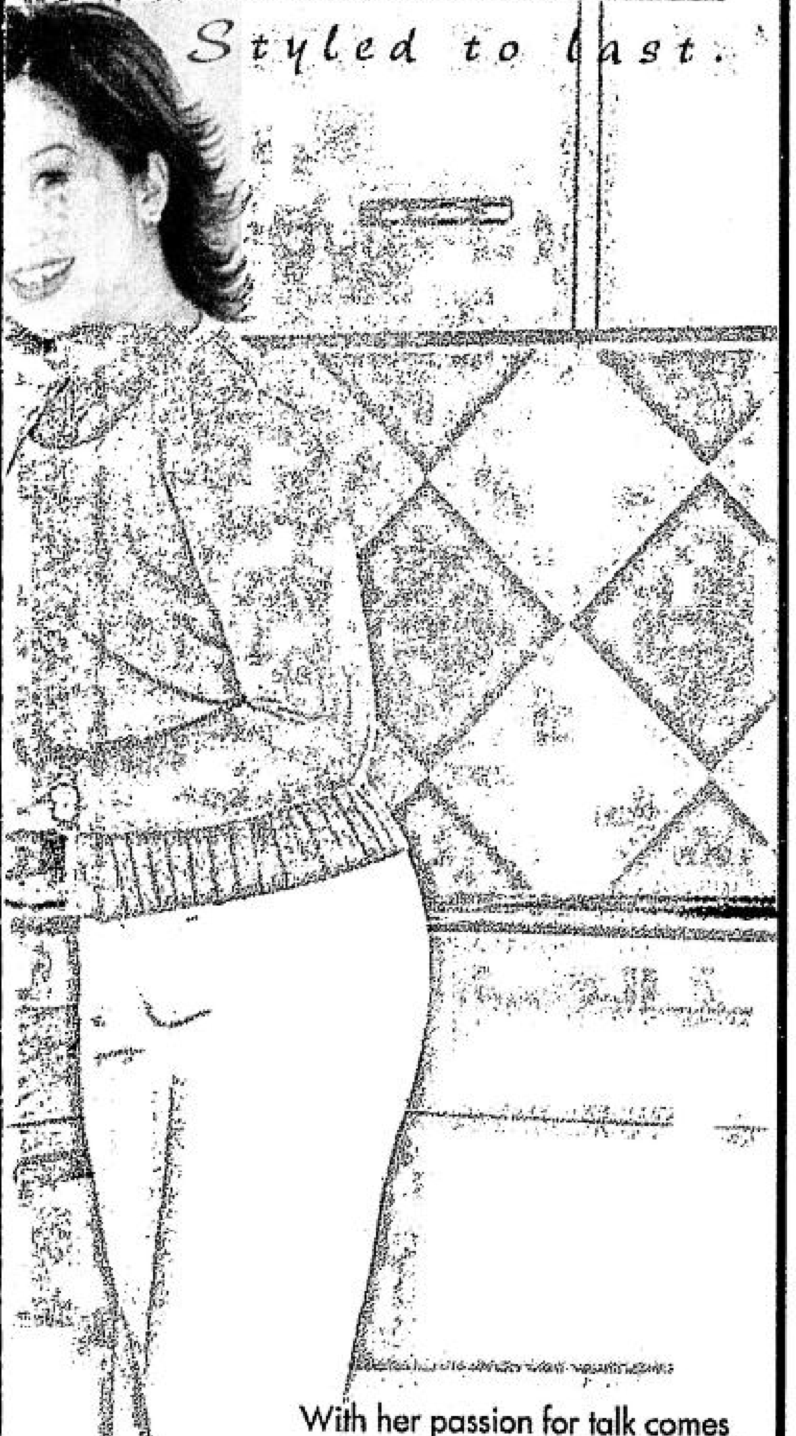

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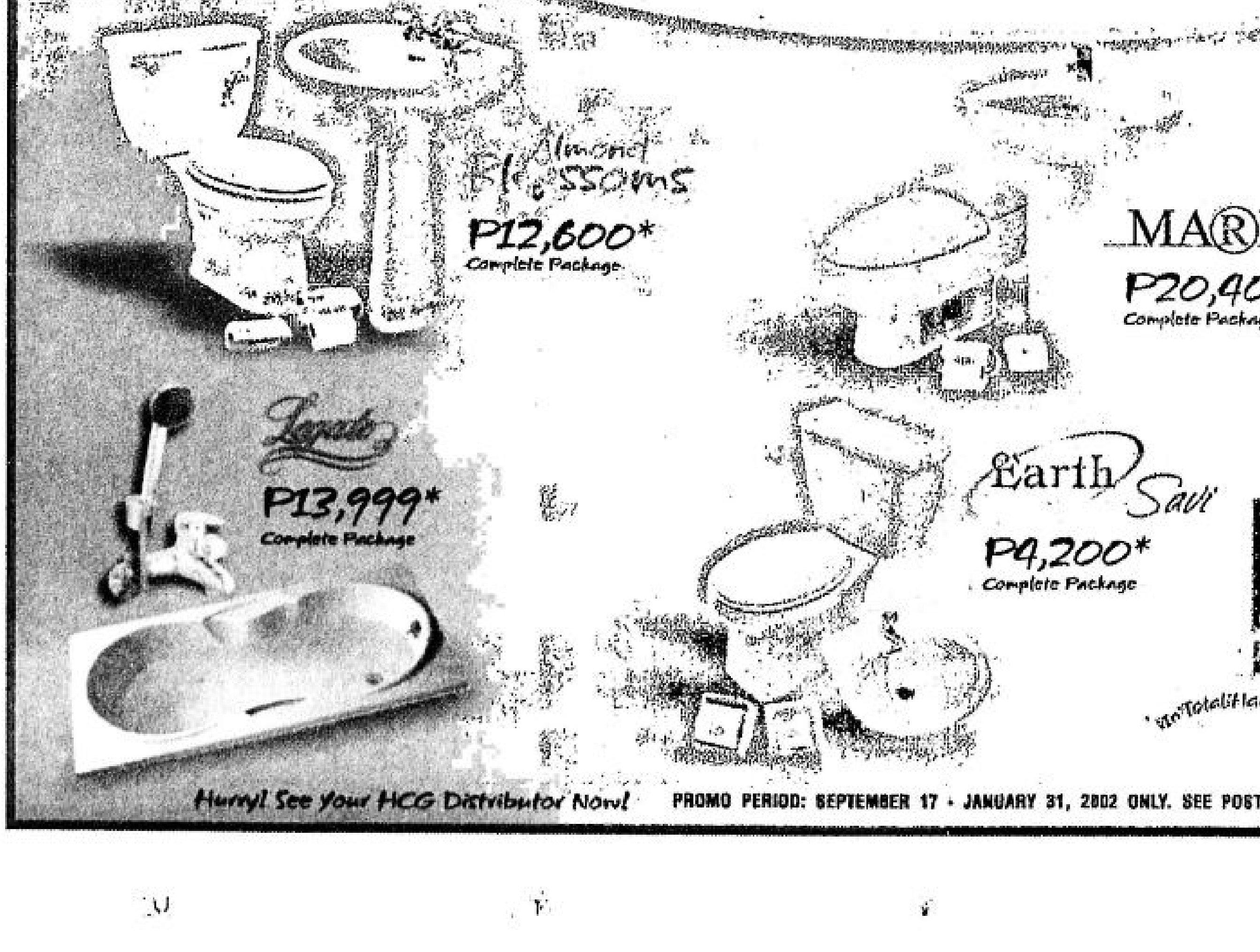

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. **LALA V.**

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

The Division of Cardiac, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is accepting applicants for **Subspecialty Fellowship in Cardiac Rehabilitation for Academic Year 2002.**

Requirements for Admission:

1. Candidate must have completed Fellowship in Cardiology in a PCC accredited Institution
2. Candidate must submit a research proposal related to the field of Cardiac Rehabilitation which must be completed during the prescribed training period and duly approved by the Office of Education and Research
3. Candidate must submit all the requirements for certification by the PSBIM

For inquiries, please contact the Office of Education and Research Tel. Nos. **926-9622** and **925-2401** loc. **3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237.**

Deadline for submission of application is **December 15, 2001.**

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 loc. 5115 Fax 840-1461

INVITATION TO BID

The PNCC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested accredited or prequalified contractors to submit sealed bids for the project:

FABRICATION AND DELIVERY OF
2 UNITS STORAGE TANKS
EDC 01-201

Bid documents may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o IGNACIUS M. CORCUERA) starting NOVEMBER 29, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PESOS: ONE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (P100.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of DECEMBER 20, 2001 and then publicly opened immediately thereafter.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference and site inspection will be held on DECEMBER 7, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the above address.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **Ester R. Guerzon**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI--Dec. 11, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) LOT AFP FIXED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (FCS)**, with an approved budget of **Three Hundred Three Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php 303,360,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **December 10, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php 30,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check payable to the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **December 19, 2001** at **2:00 PM (local time)** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the existing AFP Communication System and Installations upon purchase of bid documents on a designated schedule as determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **January 22, 2002** at **9:00 AM (local time)** and followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 AM** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L. ABAYA**
Major General, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Dec. 10 & 11, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

To satisfy the real estate tax delinquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest, surcharges and penalties thereon as of September 2001 and after substantially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on **February 6, 2002** at **10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the city hall, Main Building City Hall of Parañaque City**, the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives with sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippines Currency, the real estate properties described below:

Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification	Tax Dec. #	Location	Interest Due	Amount of Delinquency
1.) Manila Int'l. Airport Authority TCT No.: 23392, 20883, 20882, 20881, 20880, 20879, 20878, 20877, 20876, 20875, 33246, 33245, 36844, T-389, T-390, 78864, T-467 TCT No.: 32979	71,809	Com. Lot	E016-01385	Bgy. Vitalez	3,190,180.95	6,444,810.00
	193,760	Com. Lot	E016-01387	Bgy. Vitalez	17,264,015.00	34,876,800.00
	836	Com. Lot	E016-01396	Bgy. Vitalez	37,243.80	76,240.00
	25,685.6	Com. Improvement	E016-01374	Bgy. Vitalez	70,193,963.92	111,689,424.90
	12,508	Com. Improvement	E016-01375	Bgy. Vitalez	12,742,986.96	20,276,058.00
	30,000	Com. Improvement	E016-01376	Bgy. Vitalez	36,542,043.36	58,144,028.00
	~	Com. Machineries	E016-01377	Bgy. Vitalez	11,397,144.25	18,134,614.65
	~	Com. Machineries	E016-01378	Bgy. Vitalez	69,828,522.04	111,107,950.40
	~	Com. Machineries	E016-01379	Bgy. Vitalez	2,716,480.80	4,322,340.00
	~	Com. Machineries	E016-01380	Bgy. Vitalez	4,887,292.32	7,776,436.00
				Sub-Total	228,799,874.40	372,847,701.95
2.) Metroplas Packaging Products Corp.	2,716.9	Ind'l. Improvement	E006-10194	Bgy. Marcelo	1,070,021.55	1,877,230.80
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E006-10195	Bgy. Marcelo	3,352,403.51	4,292,793.60
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E006-10196	Bgy. Marcelo	1,427,563.32	2,271,473.45
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E006-10197	Bgy. Marcelo	843,069.93	1,359,790.20
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E006-10198	Bgy. Marcelo	55,407.15	111,933.60
	~			Sub-Total	6,748,465.46	9,913,221.65
3.) Ultam's Int'l. Inc. TCT No.: 74540	1,800	Industrial Lot	E009-07992	Bgy. Sn. Antonio	693,678.17	1,290,131.55
	2,052	Ind'l. Improvement	E009-07993	Bgy. Sn. Antonio		
4.) Diamant Board Phils. Inc.	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E014-00335	Bgy. Sun Valley	52,768.09	38,567.10
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E014-00337	Bgy. Sun Valley	57,105.36	115,364.40
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E014-00340	Bgy. Sun Valley	39,860.37	80,526.00
	~	Ind'l. Machinery	E014-00341	Bgy. Sun Valley	127,853.13	258,289.20
			E014-00342	Bgy. Sun Valley	395,316.30	368,523.70
				Sub-Total	672,903.25	861,270.40
5.) Sentosa Park Properties Dev. Corp. TCT No: 107166	3,382	Ind'l. Lot	E012-03586	Sn. Martin de Porres	123,844.62	290,716.19
	3,076	Ind'l. Lot	E012-03588	Sn. Martin de Porres	112,639.29	264,419.94
				Sub-Total	236,483.91	555,136.13

(Sgd.) **LIBERATO M. CARABEO**
ICO-City Treasurer

(PDI--Dec. 11 & 18, 2001)

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MELITONA ROBLES CALINGO

of Santolan, Pasig

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on December 9, 2001 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Luis**; children **Renato & Carmelita, Mauro & Ofelia**, and **Estelita Calingo**; grandchildren **Joven, Jeorge, John, Joyce, Julie, Joel, James** and **Jacob**; together with their family and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for her.

Her remains lie in state at 109 Evangelista St., Santolan, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 13, 2001 at Santolan Cemetery, Pasig City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Sto. Thomas de Villanueva Church.

Our Dearly Beloved Mom

NATIVIDAD F. RILLO

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 9, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her late husband **Jose A. Rillo** (†); loving children **Maritess** and **Sonny**; **Joji** and **Lala**; grandchildren **Alex, Nikki, Monty** and **Jelo**, only surviving sister **Luz F. Lorenzo**, in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel Regency Suite at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

On Wednesday, December 12, 2001, the body will be flown to Buhi, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 15, 2001 at the Rillo Mausoleum, Iriga City.

We design Obituaries for Free.

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and Mary said....

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has
rejoiced in God my Savior...
LUKE 1:46-47

AMADA (ADING) RAMIREZ ORTIZ LUIS

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord
on December 8, 2001 at the age of 89.

Loving wife to **Dr. Juan (Ache)** (†) and the best mother to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

ROLANDO & MILETTE TECSON with children **Romel, Katrina Tiffanny, Rolando Jr., Candy**; **JUNIOR & LYA BAGAYBAGAYAN** with **Mariejoh & Randy** together with **Trish & Gabo**; **John-John, Joel, Jody**; **SETH & MARILYN LAMSON** with **Mylene, Maan, Jay-jay & Michael**; **DEAR & CRISTY ORTIZ** with **Alexin, Santie, Paul & Kay**; **TERESITA** and **RENE ODULIO** with **Rosette & Armand Paez, Raymond, Jon-Jon & Roscoe**; **SIMPLE & BABY GOZON** with **Symel, Irish & Mitchie** and other relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence, Maligaya (Lourdes), Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 after 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. John Nepomuceno Parish, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms...
Deuteronomy 33:27

RICARDO S. CUTIONGCO

Peacefully joined his Lord
on December 8, 2001 at the age of 69.

His wife **ELENA**; children & grandchildren **ERIC & FIDES, Hans** and **Michael**; **EDWIN & PET, Den-den, Niña** and **Erica**; **EVA**; **EDGAR & BOBONG, Danielle**; and **RENEE**; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends invite the readers to thank God for His gift of eternal life.

His remains lie in state at Viewing Chapels 1 & 2, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2001 at Heaven's Gate I, Barrio Mayamot, Antipolo City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola.

Gloria Caliboso Molina

April 12, 1952 — December 6, 2001

Her bereaved husband **Agustin B. Molina, Jr.**; children **Noel** and **Jonathan**; mother **Juana Caliboso**; brothers, sisters and in-laws request their relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their residence in Sacay Grand Villas, Kanluran Road, UPLB Campus, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be held on December 14 at the Maquiling Memorial Park, Los Baños, after the 9 a.m. Mass at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Church.

For God
so loved
the world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
everlasting
life.

John 3:16

Our dear Mommy

ODILLA CASTILLO SONGCO

Has peacefully joined our Creator on the 10th day of December
Lord's Year two thousand and one, she was 64.

Together with our loving Daddy **MARIANO**; we, children **JAY** and **GIRLIE**, **ERRICK** and **MYLENE**, and **JAN**; her sister **JESSICA** and brother **REY**; and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her on her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at the Hope Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels.
Friends and relatives are requested to attend Holy Mass offered daily every 8 o'clock in the evening.
She will be laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, the 14th of December 2001.

GERTRUDES RANCES SAMANTELA

Widow of the late **Atty. Alfredo Samantela, Sr.**

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 9, 2001
at the age of 84.

Her loving children **Nina & Rene, Alex & Alma, Alfredo Jr.**; grandchildren **Owl & Marc**; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes Chapel 2-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 15, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

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ATTY. JESUS TAÑEDO QUIAMBAO

FORMER PROFESSOR OF FOREIGN SERVICES,
COLLEGE OF LAW PROFESSOR, BAR REVIEWER
UNIVERSITY OF MANILA, DEAN OF RECTO
COLLEGES, LIFETIME MEMBER OF PHIL. – JAPAN
SOCIETY, PHILFEJA AND ASCOJA, PHIL.
SCHOLAR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA OF JAPAN

Has joined his first wife "EVING" and peacefully rests with the Lord on December 7, 2001 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his second wife **AIDA SALINAS QUIAMBAO**; his children **Raymond & Lily Quiambao, Ching & Francis Formoso, Thelma & Rocky Suzara, Angie** and **Bob Voss** (†), **Bina & Butch Dilao** and **Jovy & Cris Aquino**; his stepchildren **Arnold & Karen Reyes, Arnel & Rose Reyes, Maria Ruth Reyes, Rodolfo & Cathy Tecson Jr.**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

DR. FLORENCIO "PONG" VILLACORTA

Has peacefully joined our Lord on December 09, 2001
at the age of 56.

Survived by his mother **CONCORDIA**; mother-in-law **ESPERANZA**; wife **DRA. DELFA**; son- and daughter-in-law **WAYDE** and **PEYA**; grandsons **RENZO** and **FLOYD**; brothers **JUN** and **OSCAR**; sisters **NANCY, CYNTHIA** and **CORA**; brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Royal Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A, Santos Avenue, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment date will be published later.

REAL ESTATE
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Delinquent borrowers reminded on loan condonation deadline

DELINQUENT housing loan borrowers of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. have up to December this year to avail of up to 100-percent waiver of housing loan penalties when they fully pay, update loan payments, or restructure their loans.

Lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said the implementation of the loan relief assistance under Republic Act 8501, the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998 which expired last June 30, was extended to enable 97,697 delinquent borrowers the opportunity to restructure their loans with waiver of loan penalties and save them from foreclosure.

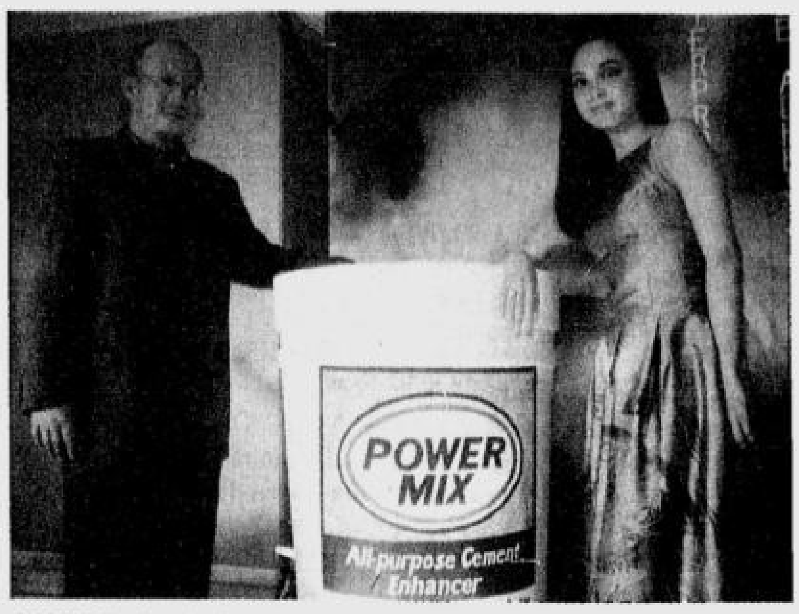
Prior or to the extension, the NHMFC waived a total of over P2 billion in loan penalties to 37,273 borrowers who availed of the program.

Of this amount, P1.89 billion was granted to 27,580 borrowers who availed themselves of loan restructuring; P235 million under full updating of loan arrearages; and P57 million for those who fully paid their outstanding accounts.

The NHMFC board of directors, chaired by Housing Secretary Michael T. Defensor, approved the extension of the penalty condonation program to synchronize the program deadline among government housing agencies.

The deadline extension is also in response to the clamor from other delinquent borrowers, who were unable to meet the earlier deadline due to some economic adversities.

The assistance is open to all housing beneficiaries of the NHMFC under its various home financing programs, including its Unified Home Lending Program, Community Mortgage Program, and its Folio I program.



SHOWN during the launch are Jorge M. Yulo, president of Global Brands, and model Rochelle Ong presenting the PowerMix product.

Bacoor mall owner assures smooth traffic

CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp. says it will implement a traffic scheme that will benefit both motorists and pedestrians along the busy stretch of Zapote road in Bacoor Cavite.

Nearing completion in the area is Cuevasville's first mall project, Cuevasville Plaza, a 32,000 square-meter four-level shopping complex.

Traffic scheme

The company says public utility vehicles such as jeepneys, tricycles and buses will have their designated loading and unloading areas to ensure that they will not block road traffic. Likewise, pedestrians will have their own lanes, which they can cross safely anytime of the day. Cuevasville also assures ample parking spaces for private cars.

The company expresses confidence about the success of this scheme mainly because it will be strictly implemented in coordination with local traffic authorities. The company also reveals that it will harness the resources of local barangays which will help in coordinating traffic movement in the area. Tapping the barangay resources is in line with Cuevasville's corporate philosophy of being closely united with the community it is in.

Consumer traffic

Traffic in the area, which has an average pedestrian count of about 1,500 per hour on off peak and roughly 2,500 per hour on peak hours, is expected to be even heavier when the mall opens on Dec. 15. The mall is located on the busiest section of the Zapote stretch which hosts a slew of various commercial establishments such as banks, public market, convenience stores, medical center, food, drug and other shops.

Consumer traffic is only one of the reasons for Cuevasville's optimism on its mall's success. Aside from the area having a customer mix of A, B, C, D and E, the company is taking advantage of the recent economic boom in Cavite. The province is one of the least affected by the current economic crisis. Its years of growth, which it has nurtured, have given it enough cushions.

Shopping haven

The perfect location will undoubtedly make Cuevasville Plaza a prominent shopping haven for local residents and those of other neighboring towns. Upon the mall's completion, the Bacoor community no longer has to travel to Metro Manila for their shopping needs. The mall will ably fill in their needs.

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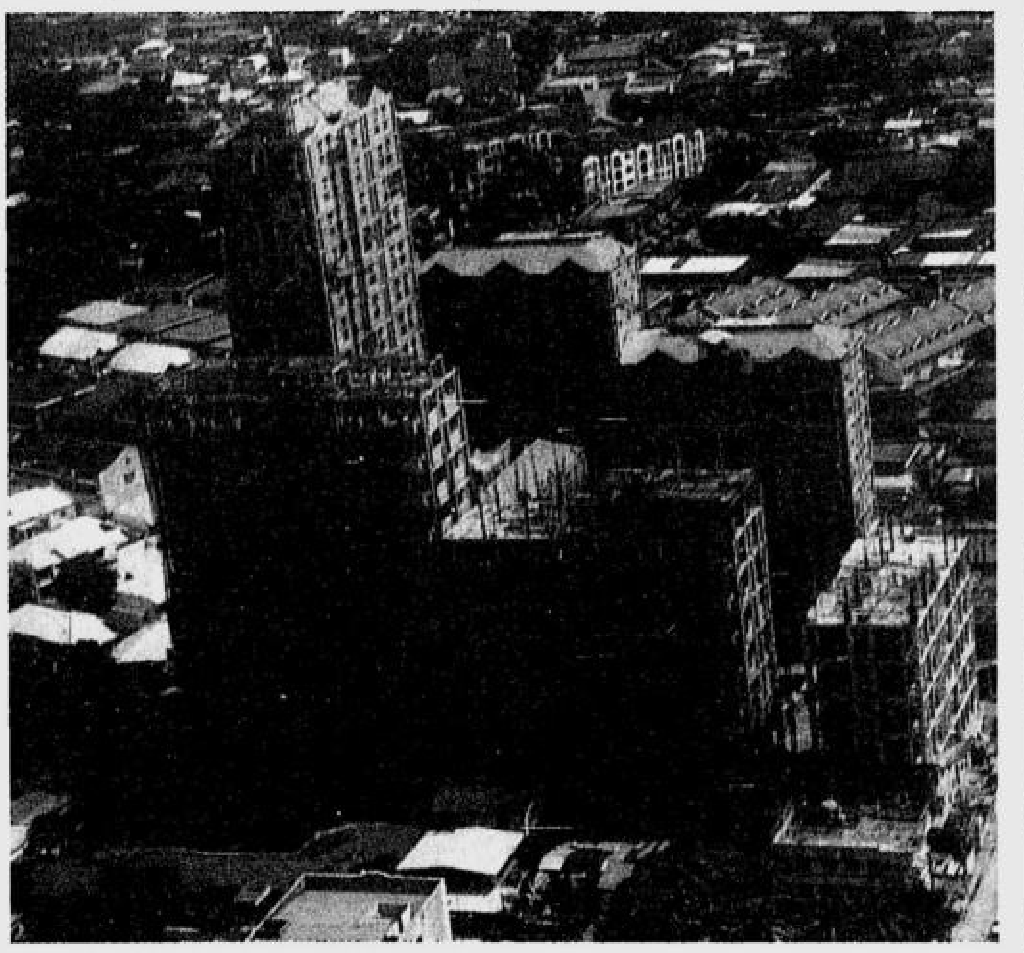

CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING

Greenhills Garden Square, a nine-cluster residential community development of Empire East Land Holdings Inc. in Quezon City, has reached 62 percent completion, with Clusters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 already topped off. Architectural finishing works including partitioning and loft and stairs installation are underway for Clusters 1 to 5, now fully enclosed with windows. The whole project is due for completion and turnover by the last quarter of 2003.

Sta. Lucia Realty bears vision for town center

EAGLE Ridge Golf and Residential Estates' vivid vision is one for the family: if setting out traditions apart from those of the main "clan" branch is important, let it be one rooted in shared fun. Eagle Ridge developer Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. recognizes the need for families to spend weekends together by putting up a 57-hectare Town Center, the commercial complex, where everyone can enjoy the usual mall promenading within Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estates.

The Eagle Ridge Town Center is a comprehensive, ultimate amenity-spread master-planned for Sta. Lucia by Glatting Jackson Kercher Angiln Lopez Rinehart Inc. and HHCP Design International Inc. Glatting Jackson is an Orlando-based planning, transport planning, landscape architecture, urban design and ecological services firm. HHCP plans and designs recreational and entertainment meccas that follow their "best guest experience approach."

Well-appointed town center

In tandem, these companies are upheld to lend form to Sta. Lucia's vision of a well-appointed town center catering to the needs of a well-rounded nuclear family. The Town Center will have a shopping mall, supermarket, department stores, restaurants, recreational facilities and commercial establishments, specialty shops, entertainment centers, medical and dental clinics as well as a business center. Right up front is the community with its full complement of golf club villas, townhouses, a socialized housing area, schools, ample parking and road network, utility provisions, green spaces and parks.

Says Sta. Lucia Realty president and CEO: "Our development focus has always been on providing housing that's not limited to this and that design-inspired structure with fancy names. We espouse development that's attuned to the resident's need for recreation, rest and a sense of place—the ability to settle down in their own "comfort" space. If that meant creating a lifestyle that would suit every family member, and one that affords them opportunities to be together in its pursuit, we believe we've done our duty."

Global Brands launches first cement enhancer

GLOBAL Brands, makers of Super Vulcaseal and Original Rugby, recently launched at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel the "PowerMix" Cement Enhancer, a one-of-a-kind product and the first and only cement enhancer in the market today.

This newest product by Global Brands is a breakthrough in binding and waterproofing technology. Cement may be strong. But PowerMix can make it stronger—more powerful to resist water, moisture and weathering; more power to bind tiles:

PowerMix is made from a highly advanced acrylic polymer that is recommended for mixing with Portland cement. It modifies cement, enhancing its natural properties and making it more flexible, water resistant and workable with excellent bonding strength. It is suitable for various construction works such as waterproofing, tile adhesion and mortar patching making it more cost-efficient than any specialized product in the market.

PowerMix also has excellent adhesion properties and can be used on a wide variety of substrates and surfaces. This makes it perfect as a tile adhesive. It is best for heavy-duty adhesion of specialized massive, heavy tiles like granite, marble and porcelain in vertical applications. PowerMix is slump- resistant, making the product most suitable under these conditions. This all-in-one product is definitely economical, and saves time, energy and money. PowerMix can do all these: tile adhesion, waterproofing, mortar patching and tile-over-tile installation.

Warehouse construction technology at S&R Price

S&R PRICE Membership Shopping is building its second store in the Philippines on Ortigas Extension, using one of the world's best, most modern and innovative construction designs and technologies.

Like all S&R Price warehouses all over the world, the Ortigas branch is designed and built to withstand natural calamities like typhoons and earthquakes. Don McMillan, S&R Price senior construction manager, explains that S&R Price in Ortigas is constructed not only according to Philippine building codes but also according to California seismic standards. This means that every warehouse built by S&R Price can withstand an earthquake of up to 8 as measured on the Richter scale.

Key materials used in building are primarily imported and some are sourced locally. According to McMillan, S&R Price uses concrete hollow blocks combined with reinforcements, tied to a steel frame buildup so that each store is virtually typhoon and earthquake proof. This has been put to a test last year in San Salvador when two S&R Price warehouses withstood a powerful earthquake with no structural damages.

Unique trademark

Materials used for construction are only of the best quality; thus assuring that each building will last for 20 years or more. For example, the S&R Price flooring on the selling area is a unique company trademark that is cost-efficient and low-maintenance. The shiny yet nonslip flooring surface is also meant to withstand the test of time. The "smart building" concept has been applied at the Ortigas branch.

Self-contained

The warehouse will be self-contained with its own generators and water tanks. Uninterrupted Power Supply will be utilized for all refrigeration equipment, POS and system-related equipment. Other areas will get full power within eight seconds after a power interruption. The warehouse lighting design also incorporates photocell sensors that determine the amount of light needed by the building. The skylights are UV resistant, which means that only the light from the outside gets into the structure and not the heat from the sun's rays.

The S&R Price air-conditioning system is water-based, environment-friendly, cost- and energy-efficient. The system utilizes chilled water as the medium for cooling. The Ortigas warehouse, built by LYT Construction and Services Corp., has been constructed on a two-hectare lot and has a selling area of 5,000 square meters.

S&R Price Ortigas will have its own bus stop and street signals or traffic lights for shopping convenience. There will be double access on both sides of the property to avoid traffic jams. The parking area fronting the property has the capacity of 400 cars.

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Federal Hardware is a new and innovative American concept that carries the widest assortment of local and imported tile products in the country; Do-It-Yourself products; plumbing; hardware; hand and power tools; paints; lawn and garden accessories; electrical, lights and accessories and car care products.

Federal Hardware has no dark and dingy corners. Shoppers enter the prominent signage and archway to 4,000 square meters of air-conditioned display and selling area. The merchandise is arranged in a way that customers can actually handle the things that they intend to buy without having to give their orders to a sales clerk and having to wait for the merchandise to arrive.

Wider choice

Another distinct feature of Federal Hardware is that it's more than a place that meets construction needs. It's a center for those who want improvements in their homes and offices. Unlike the usual hardware, Federal Hardware offers a wider choice of the best tools and materials for home improvement, renovation and interior detailing activities.

Among the world-class brands carried by Federal Hardware are 3M, Black Decker, Buffalo, Champs, Daiken, Danze, De Walt, Draper, Dutch Boy, General Electric, Jett, Philips, Pointer and Yale.

Strategic location

Located strategically on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati City, Federal Hardware can be reached via the South Super Highway, Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia) and Edsa. Ample parking space is free for customers.

The one-stop builder's destination does not only offer the best-value, high-quality hardware goods but also excellent service. Federal Hardware's professional sales team serves customers every day from 8.30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cityland unveils newest project

CITYLAND Development Corp., a highly established name in the real estate industry recently unveiled its newest undertaking from its array of remarkably profitable and affordable condominiums, the Cityland Makati Executive Tower.

This towering 32-story commercial and residential condominium will soon dominate the Makati skyline at an auspicious location on Dela Rosa Street, Pio del Pilar, Makati City. It has a wide collection of bachelor pads, studio units, one-, two- and three-bedroom units to suit everyone's need and budget. Units are available in cash or easy installment terms of up to 10 years.

Carefully designed by well-known architects and engineers, it has amenities like exclusive elevators for residential floors, swimming pool, sauna, spa, gym, children's playground, roofdeck jogging area and function room that will definitely more than equal your money's worth.

Available at the usually most affordable prices, all interested buyers and investors are welcome to avail choice units at an introductory price on a first-come, first-served basis during the launch of Cityland Makati Executive Tower.

Environmental planning pitfalls under PD 957 rules, standards

BY JAIME L. YANEZA SR.,
LL.B., C.E.
Contributor

REPUBLIC Act 8749, otherwise known as the "Philippine Clear Air Act of 1999" has as its underlying principles as follows:

- The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.
- The State shall promote and protect the global environment to attain sustainable development while recognizing the primary responsibility of local government units to deal with environmental problems.
- The State recognizes that the responsibility of cleaning the habitat and environment is primarily area-based.
- The State also recognizes the principle that "polluters must pay."
- The State recognizes that a clean and healthy environment is for the good of all and should therefore be the concern of all.

The Clean Air Act is now generating concerns among the major populace and environmentalists. It was approved on June 23, 1999, and, although there is already an "interim implementing rules and regulations," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), under Secretary Heherson Alvarez, is mandated to draft the actual implementing rules and regulation (IRR) for the solid waste management as required by the Clean Air Act, which shall soon be published and be the subject of public consultations.

The said "IRR" is accordingly on its polishing stage now, and it is envisioned to be enforceable through the Solid Wage Management Councils for every towns and cities, with the city or municipal mayors themselves at the helm, respectively. Environmentalists gave these developments a welcome relief, and are now practically on a high gear to cooperate with the government in pursuing the policy of balancing development and environmental protection.

Along with these efforts is the need for us to fully understand "environmental planning," or those activities concerned with the management and development of land, as well as the preservation, conservation and rehabilitation of the human environment. Accordingly, the practice of environmental planning embraces professional services in the form of technical consultations, plan preparations and/or implementation involving, among others, as follows:

- Development of a community, town or city.
- Development of a site for a particular need such as housing, centers for activities concerned with research, education, culture, recreation, or government, industrial estates, agriculture, and water resources, including creating a spatial arrangement of buildings, utilities and communication routes.
- Land use and zoning plans for the management and development, preservation, conservation, rehabilitation and control of the environment.

Considering all these parameters to realize a healthful environment, let us now look into the prevailing implementing rules and standards for subdivision development and housing that was promulgated pursuant to Presidential Decree 957, otherwise known as the Subdivision and Condominium Buyers' Protective Decree. A cursory analysis of the said implementing rules and regulations will show and reveal to us that they do not jive harmoniously to the intents and purposes of the principles of the Clean Air Act of 1999, or the practice and application of environmental planning as cited above.

Just take a look at the usual socialized, economic and low density or open market subdivisions and housing projects. Aside from the provisions on reserved areas for roads, alleys, pathways and open spaces for parks, playgrounds and recreational use, it does not provide anything of sort that supports ecological balance as intended by the above-cited environmental laws.

In this regard, it may be of help to note that the approval of a particular subdivision project, then by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, and now supposed to be devolved to the local government units concerned, hinges only on the following:

- It must be shown that it is feasible and economically viable.
- It does not run counter to the general land use pattern and development plans of the government.
- The plan complies with the zoning ordinance of the city or municipality where it is located, and, in addition, payment of the prescribed processing fee, or compliance with other conditions prescribed by the local government unit concerned (or the HLURB). And, insofar as the said requisite reserved area for roads, alleys, pathways, and open spaces for parks, playgrounds and other recreational use, equivalent to 30 percent of the area of the subdivision project, it provides that such open space should be in accordance with the following standard:

—9 percent of gross area for high-density or social housing (66 to 100 family lots per gross hectare).

—7 percent of gross area for medium-density or economic housing (21 to 65 family lots per gross hectare).

—3.5 percent of gross area for low-density or open market housing (20 or below family lots per gross hectare); whereby in the case of economic and socialized housing projects under Batas Pambansa 220, such open space should accordingly be as follows:

DENSITY—Number of Lots and/or Housing Units Per Hectare	Areas for Community Facilities	Areas for Playground and Parks
	(% of Gross Area of Subdivision)	
150 and below	1.00%	3.50%
151 to 225	1.50%	7.00%
above 225	2.00%	9.00%

The said rules and standards, therefore, cannot be considered as supportive of the current concerns for a healthful environment.

For instance, by merely looking at a typical low-cost housing project with combined row-houses, duplexes and single-detached housing units, or even that of an economic housing project, it can be easily observed that such development causes deforestation or cutting of trees and vegetation within the subdivision project; and, afterward, no space or areas will be available even for mengerly replacing such trees and/or vegetation. This problem is compounded by the fact that as the number of household in every housing unit thereabout increases, the tendency is to expand the said housing units, respectively, either horizontally or vertically, which all the more diminishes the areas available for miniscule yards intended for a small garden or plants, shrubbery, and the likes. With almost no plants at all, and only the usually heated G.I. sheet roofings here and there, how could we savor clean and invigorating fresh air?

Under this glaring reality, it is indubitably a must for us to restudy and amend the said subdivision rules and standard. Among others, for instance, the provision for the requisite sidewalks for road lots within a subdivision should perhaps be wide enough so that it could at the same time serve as a planting strip for medium sized trees, either fruit bearing, decorative, or otherwise trees that would enhance ecology; and, that the home lot owners be respectively required to strictly adhere to the required setbacks and easements on at least three sides of their dwelling units thereon so as to ensure that they will have an active participation in the regreening of their community's environs.

In so doing, we could there and then probably arrest the long-range adverse effects to our environment of the prevailing subdivision rules and standards, or so that such rules and standards shall be in consonance with our environmental laws.

(Yaneza is the president of Jaymensons Realty Corp. and a past president of the Philippine Association of Realty Consultants Inc.)

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CUTIVE VILLAS@ PROGRESSIVE VILLAGE II

VAZBUILT chief operating officer Junji Vazquez, left, shakes hands with Progressive Homes GM Andrew Abaya during the recent groundbreaking ceremony of the said project.

Property developer taps Vazbuilt technology

PROGRESSIVE Homes Inc., developer of Progressive Village in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, has partnered with Vazbuilt Building Systems Corp. (Vazbuilt) for the construction of the units of Executive Villas, a pocket development in Progressive Village II.

Vazbuilt, the country's pioneer and leader in modular housing, was chosen for its patented and superior construction technology and project management expertise, which have made it a prime choice of leading property developers like Robinsons Homes, First Centro, Laguna Properties Holdings and Jaka Properties.

Executive Villas would offer quality and affordable homes equipped with amenities for comfortable living.

A weekly TV series expounding the many advantages of the Vazbuilt system is also on air every Saturday at 3 p.m. on IBC-13.

CLUBHOUSE OFFERS FIRST-RATE AMENITIES

One of the attractions of Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay is its posh 800-meter clubhouse, which boasts of first-rate amenities for the family to indulge in. Designed to give residents a private retreat to unwind after a hectic week at the office, the clubhouse offers a number of facilities for rest and recreation. It houses an indoor heated swimming pool; a fitness center that offers state-of-the-art facilities for working out; a game room where kids and adults alike can have fun playing billiards, table tennis, darts, chess and video games; and a spacious coffee shop.

Kidzworld RP's premier "edu-tainment resort"

IT takes persistence and ingenuity to get kids to learn new things because of their shorter attention spans and different levels of learning. With limited activities offered by popular weekend destinations like malls and country clubs, parents sometimes find themselves at a loss as how to give their children enough stimulation, develop their natural talents and acquire new skills outside their classrooms.

With that in mind, KidzWorld—a-first-of-its-kind adventure park—developed 8.88 hectares of prime commercial land into what is known today as the country's premier edu-tainment (education-entertainment) complex offering fun educational activities combined with creative, productive entertainment for every member of the family.

Commitment

"KidzWorld is committed to total child development," states Vicente Ponce Jr., KidzWorld president. Says Ponce: "Our design philosophy was inspired by Dr. Lauren Bradway's theory that a child left to learn through a single style usually has less success than a child who can put all his senses to work. That's exactly why KidzWorld was conceptualized to be a multisensory complex. Exciting hands-on activities beneficial to our children's development were carefully chosen to provide the ultimate in edu-tainment."

At KidzWorld, "it's all about discovery and learning while having fun. Our nurturing environment tickles the five major senses, and more important, one's sense of imagination Aside from providing a play-and-learn setting, KidzWorld improves social skills and strengthens familial bonds as families and friends spend more quality time interacting with each other," Ponce enthuses.

In line with the company's efforts to raise well-rounded, environmentally aware and socially responsible children, KidzWorld's loveable mascots represent endangered animals like our monkey-eating eagle, the "dugong" or sea cow, the "binturong" or Palawan bear cat, and even Bohol's tarsier. "It is also our aim to provide information on ways to protect our natural resources and environment," adds Ponce.

World geography

Children and their parents alike will delight in world geography in KidzWorld's Magellan's Playworld, where one gets to discover the seven continents of the world. There's the Eiffel Tower Water Slide, St. Peter's Dome Wading Pool, the Asian Fishing Village, the beautiful St. Basil's Cathedral of Russia, the Great Wall of China, and India's enchanting Taj Mahal, to name a few.

The African Safari Maze thrills guests as they weave in and out of this large continent. And at the International Interactive DollHouse Village, one gets to learn a foreign language simply by going through charming replicas of a French chateau, Spanish villa and a Victorian mansion Moreover, there's even an ice-skating rink underneath the Antartica igloo.

Fun-filled activities

From the world's first 18-hole Pitch-Chip-and-Putt USGA-rated course where kids below 12 can play real golf (now open) to the MAC (Multilevel Activity Center), to the huge man-made wave pool in the Batanes Cove waterworld, you and your family will never run out of fun-filled beneficial activities year-round.

"Every parent wants to maximize a child's learning ability. KidzWorld total child development program and edu-tainment activities are geared to hone the life skills a child needs now and in the future. Studies show that the end results would be happier, more confident and better-rounded children," concludes Ponce. As the country's premier edu-tainment resort complex, KidzWorld definitely sets the trend in the leisure and recreation industry.

KidzWorld—the Philippines' first and only child-oriented nature, sports and adventure club complex—is offering limited proprietary membership. Located in Dasmariñas, Cavite, it is developed by The Ponce Group of Companies and Sun Raise Ltd of Hong Kong. To become one of the privileged few and join KidzWorld's family, call 721-2167, 721-3509, 725-1822 or fax at 723-256. You can also e-mail fun@kidzworld.com.ph for more information and to arrange for a complimentary site visit,

Alarm raised over unreported asbestos victims

CASES of asbestos-related illnesses are documented at the health department, raising the alarm that more cases have been unreported to the authorities. This was revealed by a team of researchers of the Foundation for National Development after poring over journals and medical reports at the libraries of University of the Philippines and the Department of Health.

A 36-year-old Filipino male was recently admitted at the Lung Center of the Philippines due to chest pains, which were found by doctors to be symptoms of malignant pleural mesothelioma traceable to asbestos.

In 1976, a 53-year-old man, complaining of chest pains, was diagnosed with a left pleural effusion. He was a former smoker and owned a ribbon factory that was exposed to asbestos.

In 1979, a pilot survey showed severe respiratory cases and untreated health needs of retired and former male asbestos workers in Hawaii. Most subjects had exposure to asbestos in a shipyard.

Years back, in 1951, S.R. Gloyne reported 17 lung cancers in 121 asbestos workers with asbestosis. In 1947, Britain's chief factory inspector, E.R.A. Merewether, reported that lung cancer was found in 31 of 235 men with asbestosis who died between 1924 and 1946.

These cases showed the following: 1) it took 20 years before cancer was noted; 2) the longer the exposure, the greater the risk for developing lung cancer (doseresponse); and, 3) the greater the dose or exposure time, the shorter the induction time until the development of a tumor (dose-induction period).

What is more alarming was this finding: While most of these cases involved persons directly exposed to asbestos and were work-related, studies showed that secondary contamination of homes occurred when employees brought asbestos-laden work clothes.

But the most significant source of nonoccupational exposure is the release of fibers from exiting asbestos-containing surface materials in schools, residences and public buildings or from sprayed asbestos-containing fireproofing in high-rise office buildings.

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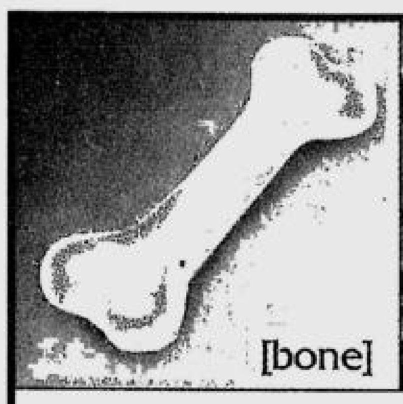

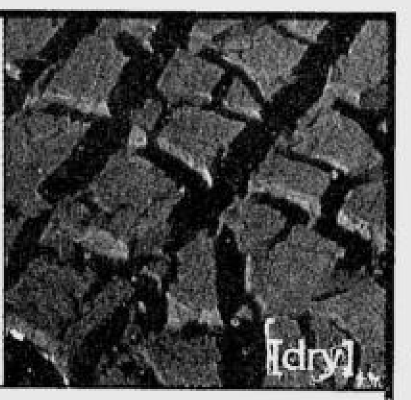

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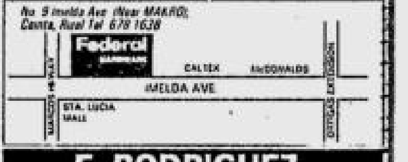

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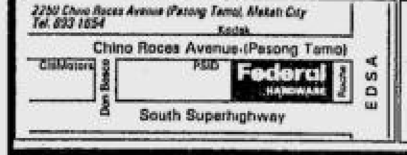

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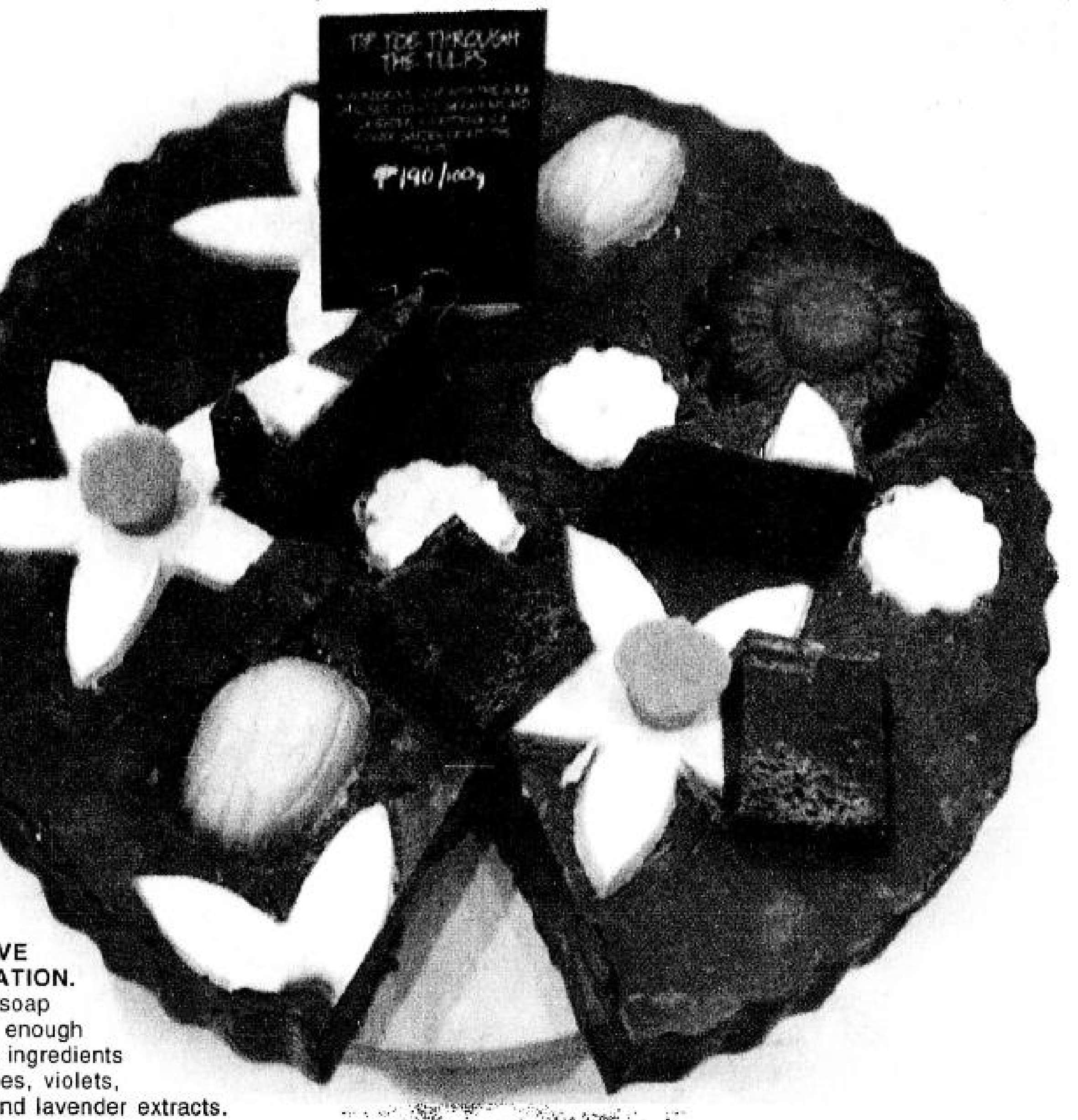

INNOVATIVE PRESENTATION. A block of soap looks good enough to eat. The ingredients contain roses, violets, geranium and lavender extracts.

Living the Lush life

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

> No small dive, the popular London-based health-and-beauty deli has opened in town

WHAT'S this store, filled with what resemble fondant cakes, after-dinner mints, European cheeses, butchers' blocks and chilled fish, doing in the midst of clothing stores?

As you come closer, there isn't the fishy smell or the pungent odor or butchered meat and cheeses. Welcome to Lush, the popular London-based alternative personal care store that packages itself as a "health-and-beauty delicatessen." Last month, Lush won the 2001 Mapic Award for International Dynamism in Retail Real Estate in the Health and Beauty category, beating Origins and Sephora.

Lush draws in customers through the senses. They are pulled in by the vibrant colors of soap blocks and floral essences waft the air. You could almost eat the soaps because the ingredients consist of extracts from figs, coconut, pineapple for their cleansing and moisturizing properties. The Caffe Latte doesn't come in a cup, but in a bar made from stimulating ground coffee beans and steamy milk, with its nourishing lactic acid. Oh, and when you drop it in a hot bath, there's a froth.

Since Stores Specialists Inc. opened Lush outlets at Glorietta 4 and Rockwell's Power Plant Mall, products have been flying off the shelves. Gumback, a shower cream made from moisturizing bananas and almond gel was sold out.

Alternative

It's not just the novelty that clicked. Hand-crafted soaps are an alternative to the commercial soaps that tend to dry up the skin, thus, the need for a moisturizer.

Because commercial soaps are made at high temperatures, the beneficial elements of the ingredients are destroyed in the same way that nutrients are lost when vegetables are overcooked.

Alternative handmade soaps are produced in lesser quantities with the cold process method. Plant butters are melted and mixed with plant-based oils. They are heated mildly. The lye is poured into the oil mixture and stirred until the mixture turns creamy and feathery. Then other vegetable ingredients are added with essential oils. Aside from providing a natural scent to the final product, these oils have healing properties. As the mixture thickens, it is poured into the molds for shape.

In England, the Lush factories look like kitchens. There are no production lines. Once the soaps are made, the workers sign their names as if they were artists stamping their signatures on the works.

Conventional soaps contain animal fat or naturally occurring glycerin and are sold at a high price. They have a ratio of 70 percent soap base and 30 percent active materials. They also contain huge quantities of titanium dioxide, a white powder that creates bubbles. Lush uses vegetable oil, which is more expensive. However, the ratio of active materials to soap is 70-30.

Most commercial products contain preservatives so that the formulas can have a shelf life of two to five years. Lush eschews preservatives, mineral oil and fragrances that irritate the skin. Therefore, the average shelf life is 14 months. Like a bakery, stocks have to be replenished frequently to guarantee freshness.

Soap for the hair

At Lush, customers order slices of soaps in grams, as if buying grams of cheese from the deli. They are chopped in butchers' blocks, priced by weight and wrapped in

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CHOOSE FROM THESE FOUR BOOMING COMBOS!

BOOM 1 Hamburger & Spaghetti Combo P69
- 1 Juicy Hamburger
- 2 Servings Super Value Spaghetti
- Large Softdrink

BOOM 2 Chicken & Macaroni Combo P69
- 1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
- 2 servings rice
- Macaroni Salad
- Large Softdrink

BOOM 3 Chicken & Spaghetti Combo P79
- 1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
- 2 servings Super Value Spaghetti
- Large Softdrink

BOOM 4 Chicken & Chili Rice Combo P89
- 1 pc. Fried Chicken w/ gravy
- 2 servings rice
- Chili con Carne bowl
- Large Softdrink

* Each combo is served in one container

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BONUS! FREE 30 Wendy's Coupon Booklet for every 30 orders of any of the combo meals.
Surprise gift pack for the party coordinators.
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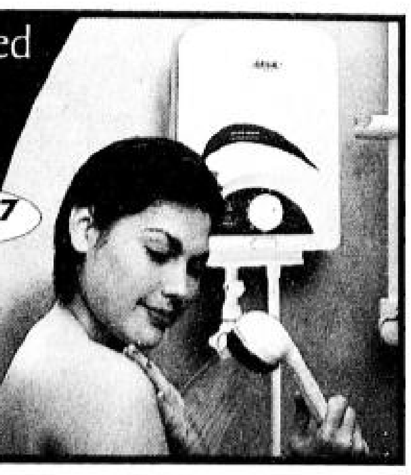

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P705.17 x 12

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415-93-78
ARIVA WATER HEATERS

THIS gargantuan soap evokes images of English country garden flowers, containing sweet violet leaf infusion.

Living the Lush life

(From page C1)

greaseproof paper, marked with the expiration date.

The products are displayed like fruits and vegetables in a European store with chalkboards announcing the daily specials. Customers are invited to select their personal-care products from the Pic N' Mix skin care at the cleansing bar to the lumps of solid shampoos and bubble slices.

A section is devoted to shampoos in solid blocks. As part of its environmental concerns, Lush reduces its packaging, particularly in using plastic bottles, since there's a shortage of landfill. The names of the soaps are scientific; Trichomania, for example, is made of coconut cream and lentil for protein and shine.

Chamomile shampoo soap acts as an anti-inflammatory. The herbal properties calm itchy scalps. Mint shampoo, which prevents falling hair, is recommended for men and lactating women.

If you want to add some reddish or dark brown tones into your hair, the Caca soap line provides the illusion of a henna treatment. The soaps are made from geranium and essential oils. Caca Noir provides a shiny black color as it works like a hair varnish.

On the other hand, for consumers who still prefer the bottle, Lush provides liquid shampoos. There are special formulas such as Okra which infuses moisturizers and Anti-Philitron-Lemon Shampoo which removes shampoo build-up and chlorine.

The novelty items are the Bath Ballistics and the Frozen Shower Gels. The bath balls look like round fruits that are dipped in a tub of hot water. The Frozen Shower Gels resemble ice candies which are stored in the freezer and rubbed against the body during bath time.

For the man

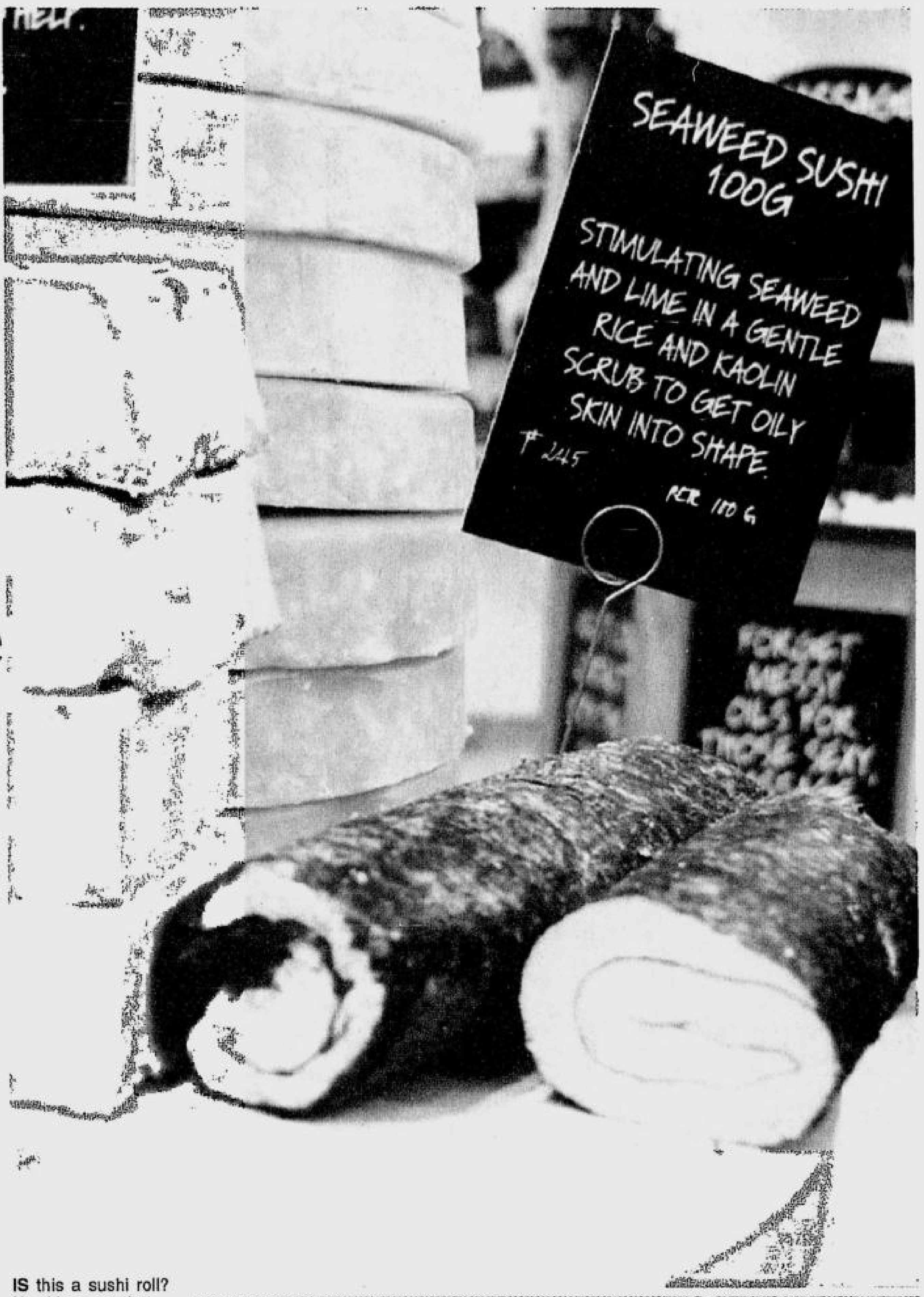
Even the needs of male consumers are met. The deodorant soaps are made of bicarbonate soda to neutralize the body odor. However, unlike conventional deodorant soaps that have a strong, antiseptic smell, these soaps smell sweet because of the essential oils from patchouli and sandalwood. These soaps are recommended for guys who want to smell clean but dislike fragrances.

Razoranthium Shaving cream is for heavy hair growth. It smoothens the skin for the ritual without the burning that follows. For daily use, Ambrosia is an ingredient that doesn't lather to provide a close shave without irritating the skin.

Chocoholics will be drawn to the Massage Bars. After 8.30, a product that looks like a chocolate bar, contains the richness of cocoa butter and the invigorating properties of peppermint. Choco La La is sinful with doses of cocoa and chocolate for moisture, mixed with revitalizing orange oil, and violet leaf which has an aphrodisiac effect.

You'll get a sensory overload more than indigestion.

Says Mark Constantine, the founder and managing director who established Lush in 1995, "The whole point of Lush is that it should be fun for our customers and for us. What really matters is what goes into a product, rather than the packaging or labeling."


SEAWEED SUSHI
100G
STIMULATING SEAWEED AND LIME IN A GENTLE RICE AND KAOLIN SCRUB TO GET OILY SKIN INTO SHAPE.
₱245
PER 100 G

IS this a sushi roll? No, it's soap that contains marine extracts that remove toxins and whitening lime.

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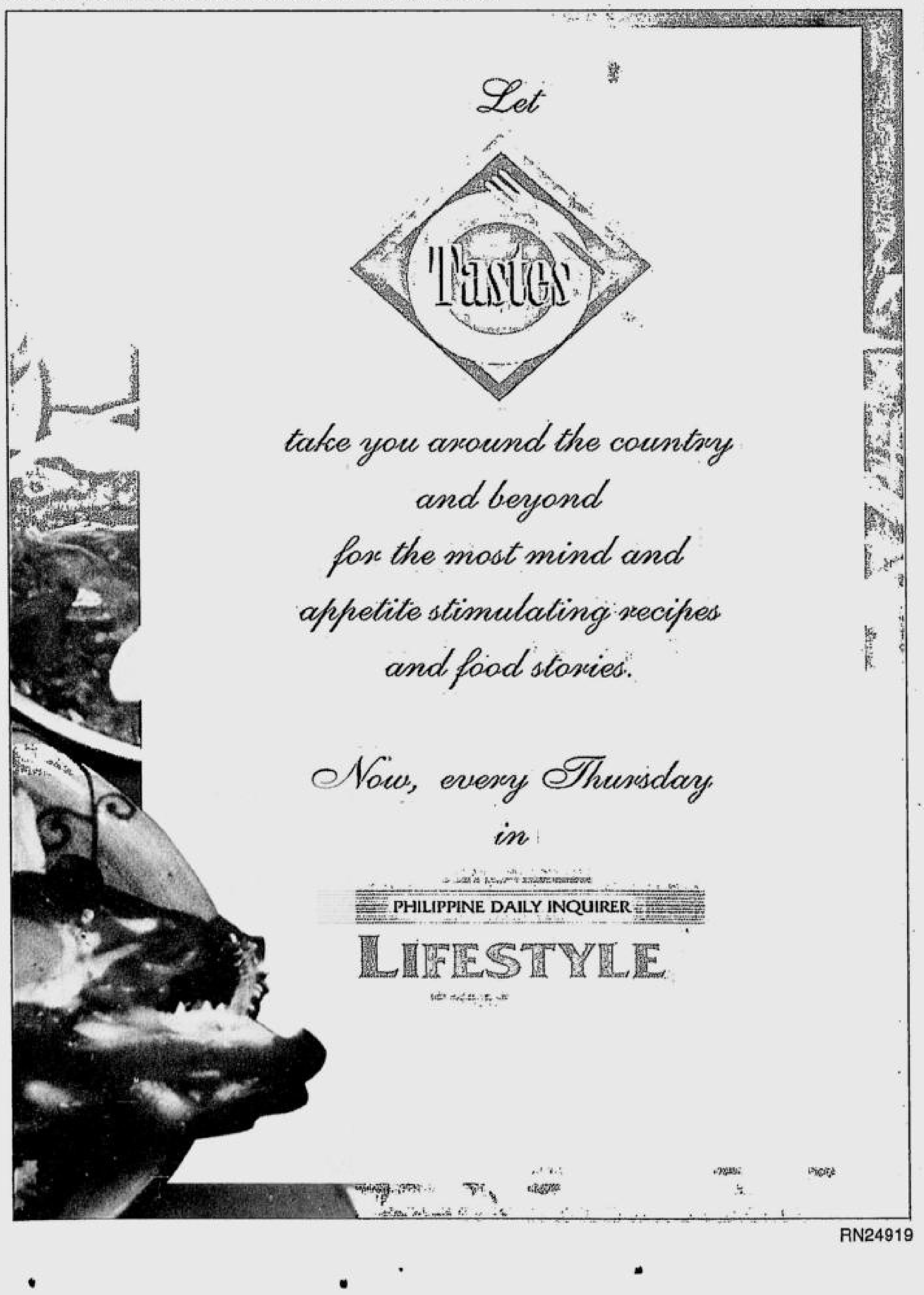
A BATHING EXPERIENCE!
LIVEN UP YOUR BATHTIME WITH OUR FIZZING, FROTHING, HANDMADE BATH BALLISTIC. JUST DROP ONE INTO A PRE-RUN BATH, SIT BACK AND LET IT HURL AND WHIRL ITSELF AROUND SOFTENING AND DEODORISING YOU.
RETURN BUBBLE
THE MOST FUN YOU'VE HAD SINCE YOUR RUBBER DUCK
'THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BUBBLES AND LUXURY THAT JUST GO TOGETHER'

IN LUSH'S "beauty delicatessen," soaps are piled high on Provençal-style wooden tables like strange exotic cheeses, while a myriad of orbs or bath balls are presented in-store like round apples.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Tastes
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and beyond
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Updates on ADHD and autism

THE HEARTSPRINGS Foundation, on its inaugural offering, has organized the seminar "Updates on ADHD and Autism" which will be held on Jan. 9 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center Auditorium in Quezon City.

Dr. Flocerfida de Jesus, a psychiatrist from the University of Syracuse, New York, will speak on "ADHD in All Ages vs Bi-Polar Disorders" with prominent psychiatrists Loudres V. Lapuz and Baltazar Reyes as reactors.

Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, a leading pediatrician and fellow of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, will talk about "Nutraceuticals—the Dietary Supplements in ADHD."

Paul Shattock, director of the Autism Research Unit, University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, will address the "Biomedical Approach in the Management of Autism." A panel of experts will react to his presentation. They are Mercedes P. Adorio, Ph.D., faculty in-charge SPHD of the UP College of Education, and Dr. Ermenilda L, Avendano, a neuro developmental pediatrician from the Philippine Children's Medical Center. Conchita Ragrario, a parent and president of the Autism Society of the Philippines has also been invited to react.

As a caring foundation for children, youth and family advocacy, Heartsprings makes available the much-needed information to equip parents and professionals in the current management interventions for developmental disabilities particularly for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism.

Heartsprings Foundation was recently organized by a group of concerned parents and professionals in the field of pediatrics and child psychiatry. All those involved with children, youth and their families as well as parents are most welcome to attend the seminar.

E-mail drbabes81@hotmail.com or call 0917-4052980, 435-8763/433-7370 at 44 Malingap St., Teachers Village East, QC or 929-4242/925-5196 at 13 Maginhawa St., UBVP Village, QC.

Bridge your child's growth gap with milk

IF he is anywhere between 4 and 12 years old, then he is. Growth gap is the stage when the amount of weight and height gained during infancy progressively lessens over the years until the child reaches puberty.

Growth gap is primarily the school age period when his physical activities increase. He consumes more energy as he becomes more hyperactive and restless. At times, though, he may lose opportunities for physical exercise when he develops idle habits such as watching too much TV or sitting for hours playing computer games.

KAISA Saguisag

JAIME de Venecia

In both instances, the child's growth may be hampered.

This is an important time for parents to foster healthy lifestyles because the child is gaining independence, experiencing increased cognitive capacities, rapidly developing self-concept, which includes perception of physical well-being.

Nutrition plays a critical role at this stage when his eating habits tend to be more unsupervised and he is exposed to an endless variety of snacks. School age kids need a well-balanced diet to provide energy for successful learning in school and for increasing physical activity.

One way to help your child cope with slow growth and lack of proper nutrition during his school age years is to give him milk.

KIANA Valenciano

For years, mothers with children have been sufficiently satisfied with the merits of milk as the complete food to feed their offspring. However, after they are weaned from the mother's milk and the bottle, the little tykes soon explore the flavorful world of soft drinks, junk food and instant meals. Their display of gusto in consuming these foods encourages the unknowing moms to continue stuffing their growing kids with these "goodies." Pretty soon, the children would have grown out of eating real food with nutrients and milk is the first to be put aside.

Milk has a powerful influence on growth. Studies in Scotland show that supplementation of diet with extra milk produces faster growth due to extra proteins and calcium in milk. These minerals help build the bones and replenish the energy lost due to upbeat activities. It is bone growth which contributes most to a child's ultimate height, thus making up for the less nutritious food a child at this age is prone to eating. Further, studies also show that people who normally have a diet rich in milk are generally taller.

Teaching children how to eat healthy while in their formative years will enable them to have a solid foundation of good nutrition and healthy lifestyle habits.

Diapers that contain aloe and jojoba

PROKIDS Premium, a leading disposable baby diaper brand, recently signed an accord with Dumex Precision Nutrition, a leading infant formula brand, to conduct a nationwide bundling promotion in selected supermarkets during the months of December and January.

The promo entitles consumers to a free pack of Dumex 1 Plus Growing-Up Milk in 200 g pouch with every purchase of Prokids Premium diapers value pack.

The Premium Value Packs and Big Packs are now P15 and P10 off their regular prices. The only diaper brand in the market that has aloe and jojoba, which protect babies from diaper rash, wetness and germs.

Prokids Premium offers promos every month. Recently, it raffled off CAP education plans as grand prize and kiddie and appliance showcases as special prizes.

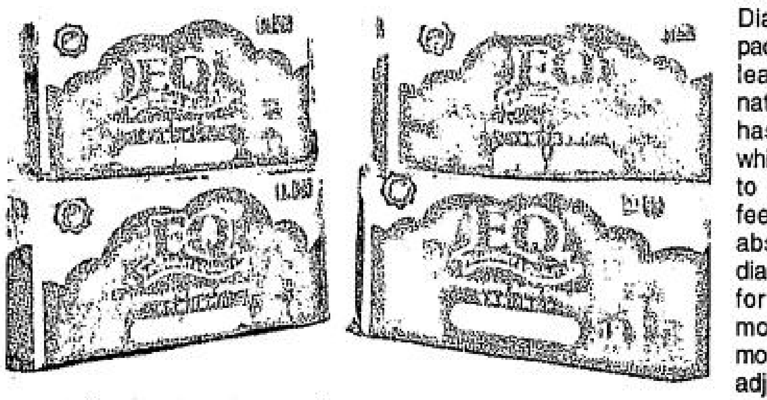
Johnson's baby cream
100 g

JOHNSON'S Baby Cream gives smooth, soft skin without the oil. Although gentle, it is a fast-absorbing lightweight moisturizer that replenishes the skin's lost moisture or water. Good for babies and adults as a non-greasy night cream or day cream.

KID-FRIENDLY

Choosy moms have turned to Zwitsal Kids, a line of baby-care products that has been clinically tested by doctors. Appropriately packaged in colorful bottles and fruity scents, the Zwitsal Kids line include shampoo and conditioners, bath soap, cologne and powder. Zwitsal Kids is available exclusively at House of Sara Lee branches and authorized House of Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call 810-5402 or email customer.relations@hosl-ph.com.

Zwitsal KIDS
Zwitsal KIDS
Zwitsal KIDS
Zwitsal KIDS



EQ DISPOSABLE Baby Diapers introduces a budget pack, which is now available at leading supermarkets nationwide. The budget pack has super-absorbent layers, which quickly turn liquid into gel to make baby's skin dry and feel comfortable. Its superior absorbency also keeps its diaper pad intact and in place for longer periods, thus mothers will definitely save more. The frontal tape is easily adjustable for free movement.

HEALTHY Options Christmas gift boxes

Celebrate Well
Mini Munchie
De Bolos Penne
Mostly Oats
Angel Hair

Health shop says yes to children via Unicef

HEALTHY Options, Asia's No. 1 natural products store, reaches out this holiday season to less fortunate Filipino kids through sales proceeds of its Christmas gift boxes.

For every purchase of a Healthy Options Christmas gift box laden with flavorsome and healthy goodies, Healthy Options will donate a portion of the sales to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef). The donation will go directly to Unicef's basic education and early childhood development programs that benefit Filipino children.

The effort is in step with Unicef's "Say Yes for Children" campaign. Ongoing until May 2002, it calls for a better world for all children. The "Say Yes for Children" campaign stresses 10 imperatives for children—1. Leave no child out; 2. Put children first; 3. Care for every child; 4. Fight HIV/AIDS; 5. Stop harming and exploiting children; 6. Listen to children; 7. Educate every child; 8. Protect children from war; 9. Protect the earth for children; and 10. Fight poverty: Invest in children.

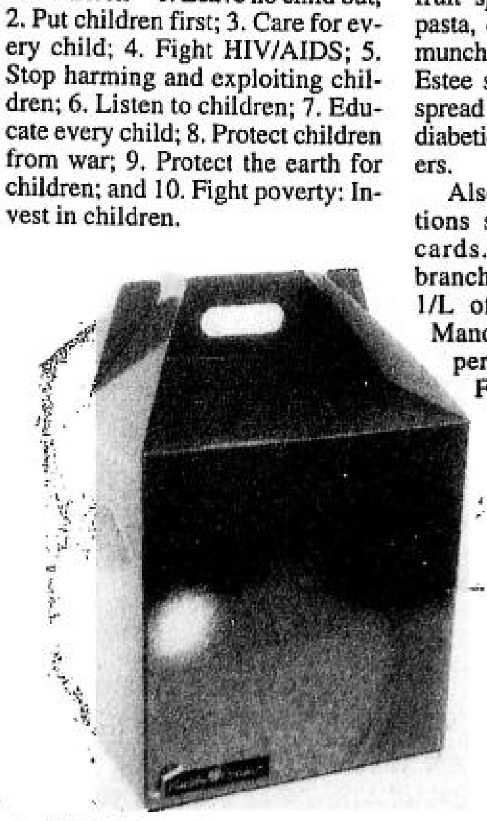
The Healthy Options Christmas campaign "Good to Give, Good to Receive" becomes truly meaningful with the nutrition superstore's active team-up with Unicef to help reach out to indigent kids.

The Healthy Options Christmas gift boxes impart not just warm holiday wishes but heartfelt support for the welfare of less fortunate kids. The boxes come in various sizes—petite, midi, or grands, and range in price from P980 to P2,500.

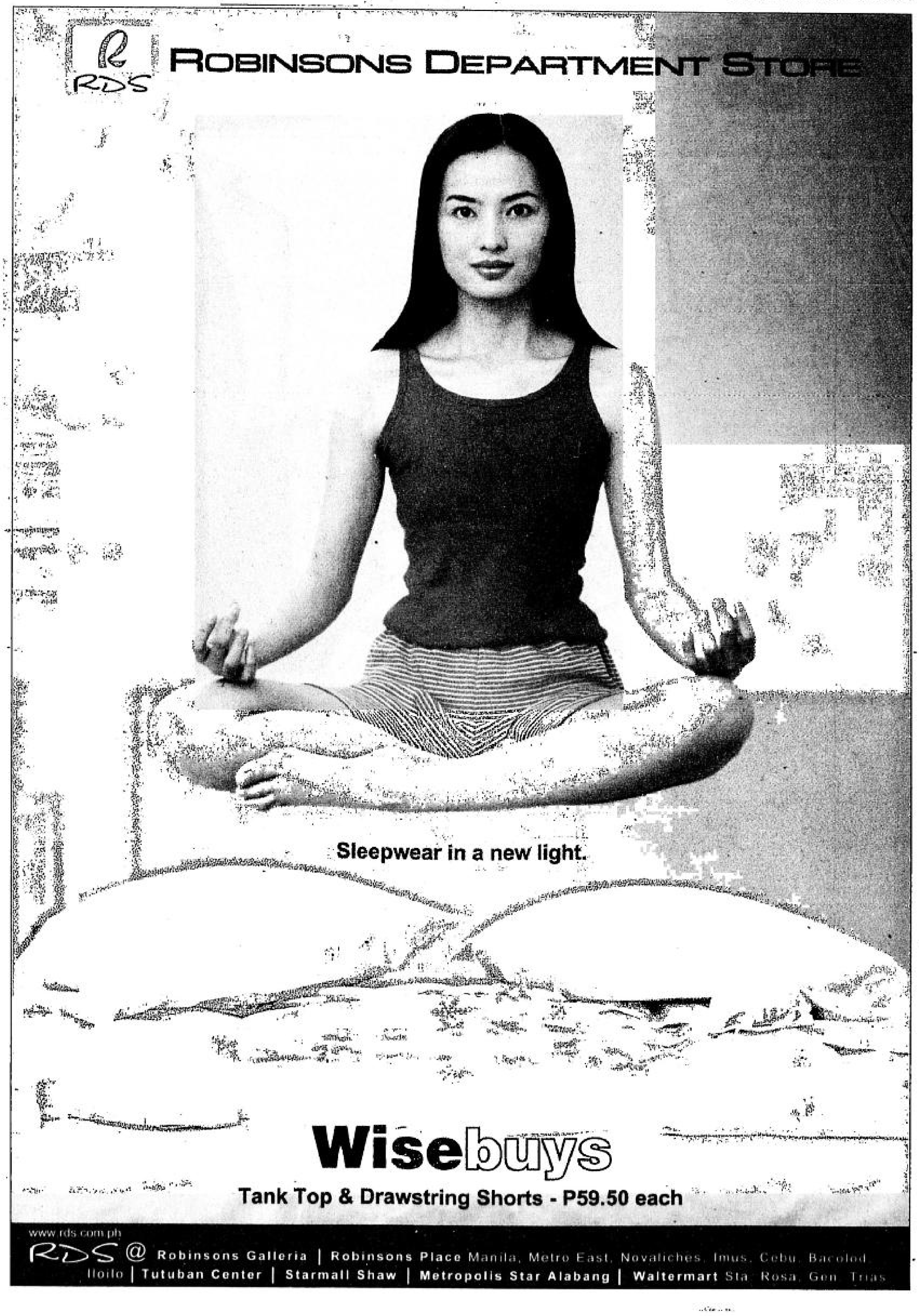
They may be put together for shoppers on the go, or may be created to suit the preferences of both the giver and the recipient. Any of the Healthy Options customer assistants will be glad to assist. The ready-packed nutritious and flavorsome goodies and beverages include the Bottle Green Sparkling Fruit Presse, Westsoy soy drinks, and other quality brands of fruit spread, cereal, oat products, pasta, cookies and other delightful munchies and snacks, including the Estee sugar-free bars, wafers, fruit spread and syrup which are ideal for diabetics and sugar-conscious eaters.

Also available at Healthy Options stores are Unicef greeting cards. Visit Healthy Options branches located at the following: 1/L of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L of Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/F of SM City, North Edsa; 2/L of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; and at 2/L of SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Unicef began its work in the Philippines in 1947 with a child-feeding program. For more information about the humanitarian thrusts and projects of Unicef, log on to www.unicef.org/philippines.



A PACKAGE of nutritious goodies



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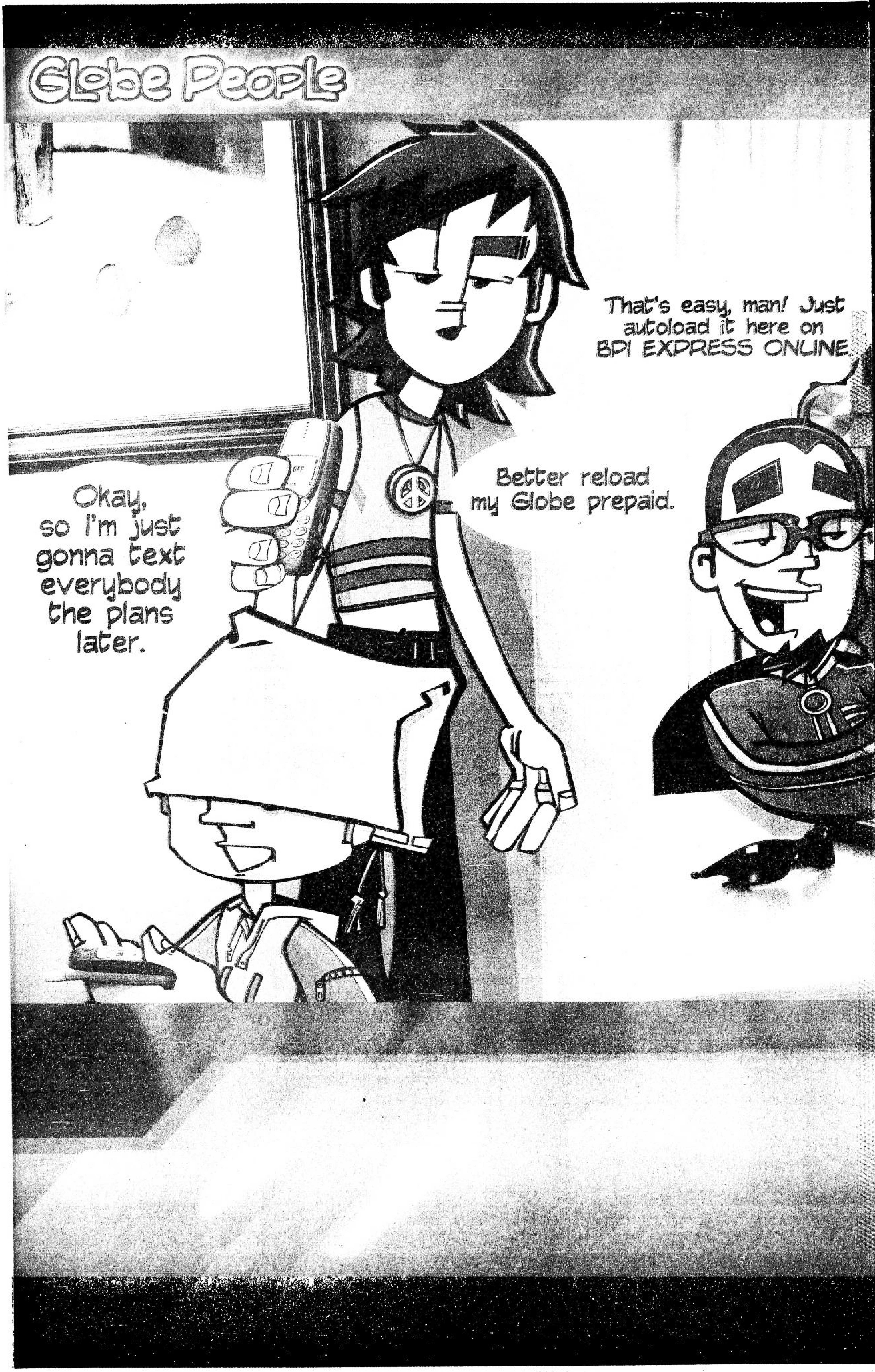

Globe People
Okay, so I'm just gonna text everybody the plans later.
Better reload my Globe prepaid.
That's easy, man! Just autoload it here on BPI EXPRESS ONLINE.

Auto-what?
Hey, I'm getting some cash from BPI EXPRESS TELLER, you can autoload there.
It's that word again.
Globe
HANDYPHONE
Prepaid Plus

INDOCHINESE tigers prowl through the bushes looking for prey. The tigers are endangered, and only between 1,200 and 1,800 exist in the wild.

More than just a postage-stamp menagerie

(From page C8)

students troop to the zoo for educational visits. Program levels range from preschool to college and include behind-the-scenes tour, summer programs and overnight camping opportunities. Teachers could also avail of zoo orientation seminars.

Marketing gimmicks

Of course, trust savvy Americans to come up with astute marketing gimmicks to keep 'em coming back. The zoo holds a series of year-round activities, such as the Nighttime Zoo and Kids' Free Month, to attract visitors young and old. Log on at www.sandiegozoo.org for details.

"It's an ideal way for people to gain some empathy and understanding toward these animals," said Herren. Endangered species that are otherwise unheard of or not cute or celebrated enough are given a new lease on life.

After all, the attraction also houses an animal hospital and the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species, the San Diego Zoo's research arm that's internationally known for its work to help stem the tide of extinction for hundreds of species and their habitats.

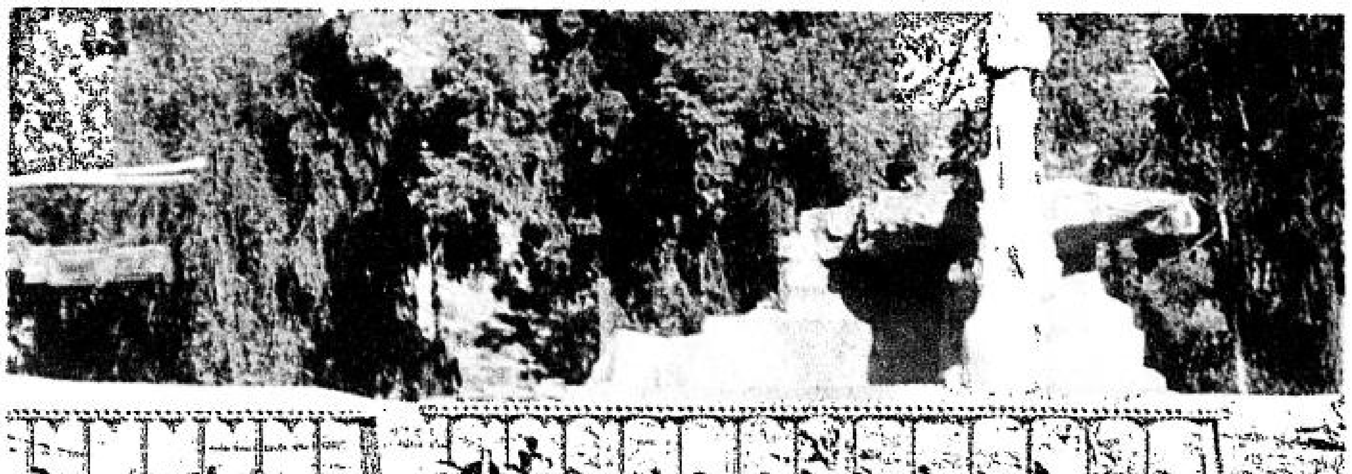
The zoo's collection of animals was assembled from a scattering of specimens that remained in Balboa Park at the close of the 1915-1916 Panama-California International Exposition. Dr. Harry Wegeforth and friends incorporated the zoo on Oct. 2, 1916.

"I grew up loving animals and hating zoos," Herren, who lived near a zoo as a child, confessed. "It's not good when a zoo becomes nothing but a postage-stamp menagerie where animals are neglected. Aside from giving them a home, it's also important to give them quality care." And where they are right now, Shi Shi, Bai Yun and Hua Mei are in good hands.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BABY giant panda, Hua Mei, tests her climbing skills at the world-famous San Diego Zoo. Born Aug. 21, 1999, Hua Mei is the first giant panda born at the zoo and the first born in the United States to survive past four days.

The San Diego Zoo is home to 4,000 rare, endangered or orphaned animals; no animal is captured for exhibition



THE WGASA Bushline Railway takes guests on a 55-minute excursion around the perimeter of the 1,800-acre compound. From the open-air tram, guests may see thousands of exotic creatures, such as these elephants, roaming in multispecies herds in vast enclosures.

YOUNG guests at the San Diego Wild Animal Park enjoy meeting a young deer up close at the wild animal park's petting kraal near Nairobi Village. Other village attractions include Lorikeet Landing, an exhibit of western lowland gorillas, an animal care center and nursery.

Haribon advocates protection of eagle's natural habitat

THE PHILIPPINE eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is a symbol of our nation's once rich biodiversity. Indigenous only to the islands of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao, its existence teeters between survival and extinction as the true status of this majestic bird in the wild remains unclear. Scientists indicate that the Philippine eagle faces a 50 percent chance of extinction in the next five years.

"Despite its imposing presence, the Philippine eagle is not impervious to the ecological damage wrought by man," says Dr. Aldrin Mallari, program director of the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, a non-government organization dedicated to biodiversity conservation through protected area management.

Dr. Mallari further explains that since the Philippine eagle is a climax species, meaning it is at the apex of the food chain, it is viewed as an excellent indicator of an area's biodiversity. "When an eagle flees a certain area of the forest that it normally inhabits, this means that that particular area has already ran out of other species, which the eagle usually feeds upon," he says. "This indicates that the area's biodiversity has already been destroyed and this in turn sets off a chain of events that causes serious damage to our ecological system."

Working to raise national consciousness on sustainable approaches to development, Haribon aims to build a constituency for environmental issues that need prioritizing: habitats and sites for protection, conservation issues and actions.

In the case of the Philippine eagle, Haribon has been working to slow down the denudation of our country's lowland forests—the eagle's natural habitat.

Along with the absence of suitable nesting places, the eagle has failed to breed effectively, causing their numbers to drop to precipitous levels. The fact that they also breed only once every two years further compounds this predicament.

Since it is also known for its devotion to its young, nesting eagles remain very vulnerable to poaching. "Parent eagles always return to the nest for as long as its offspring needs care," explains Dr. Mallari. Another threat to the eagle's existence is wildlife trade. The capture of these creatures for sale as pets and specimens for game or trophy has vastly contributed to its decline.

The protection of the Philippine eagle is perhaps the most challenging conservation objective in the Philippines. Classified as critically endangered by the Haribon Foundation, Birdlife International and the World Conservation Union, it is estimated that there are less than 250 pairs of mature birds and scientists indicate that this figure is constantly declining.

"Since our organization was formed 30 years ago by a group of people who share the same passion for birds, our selection of the Philippine eagle as our symbol is indeed very appropriate," says Haribon executive director Anabelle E. Plantilla. "Of course, this doesn't mean that we are only concerned about birds since Haribon continues with its aggressive efforts in the conservation and protection of other animals that are indigenous to the Philippines," she adds.

To arrest the steady decline of the Philippine eagle, Haribon has been advocating a full enforcement of forest protection throughout the species' range. It also proposes a stop to the hunting of the birds through intensive local programs of environmental education and the development of a major national campaign that supports and explains the plight of our diminishing matrimony.

Call the Haribon Foundation at 925-3332, 436-2756 or visit www.haribon.org.ph.

Globe People
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miss out on anything you want to do.

LIFE IS MADE

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[illegible]

More than just a postage-stamp menagerie

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

A SOUTHERN white rhinoceros stands in a water hole in the East Africa exhibit at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. White rhinos are twice as big as the black rhinos, but are less aggressive.

THEY may be an ocean away from their native land, but Bai Yun and Shi Shi have little reason to complain. Aside from easy access to their authentic food and a spacious dwelling, the couple receives the best health care there is this side of the Pacific. Not only do they get these benefits for free, they're paid an unheard sum of $1 million a year to entertain an endless stream of adoring guests in their new home daily.

In fact, Shi Shi must have felt upbeat about the future that he and Bai Yun finally decided to start a family. Bai Yun gave birth to a bouncing baby girl named Hua Mei two years ago. Since then the entire San Diego Zoo, a 100-acre attraction in Balboa Park near the city's downtown, has never been the same.

This family of pandas from China is just one of the featured attractions at the world-famous zoo, home to 4,000 rare, endangered or orphaned animals the world over, including our very own Calamian or Philippine spotted deer

If anything, the zoo and a nearby wildlife preserve, the 1,800-acre San Diego Wild Animal Park, attest to America's love for animals and its concern for the environment. Thanks to San Diego's mild climate, the zoo also boasts of a botanical garden that includes various tropical plants. The nonprofit Zoological Society of San Diego runs both attractions.

"Bai Yun and Shi Shi were gifts from China," said zoo guide Wendy Morihiro. "There are supposedly only 1,000 pandas out in the wild. Their mortality rate is high. Pandas give birth to just one or two cubs [per pregnancy]. Some moms roll over their babies because they're so tiny at birth."

First US-born cub

Through the zoo's painstaking efforts, it was able to successfully breed a panda in captivity. Hua Mei holds the distinction of being the first cub born in the Western Hemisphere in a decade and the first panda born in the US to survive past four days.

But what expensive gifts her parents are! The zoo, which relies primarily on grants and ticket sales, pays the Chinese government a whopping $1 million every year for keeping the animals. The money is used to fund the country's panda research center. A similar facility at the San Diego Zoo is funded by American telecom giant Pacific Bell.

Hua Mei and Shi Shi seemed oblivious as they nibbled on young bamboo shoots while countless visitors queued to ogle at them. The two sat at opposite ends of their grassy enclosure, which is right beside the research station. For some reason, Bai Yun made herself scarce that day. Zookeepers believe that the 10-year-old panda is again in that interesting stage.

The zoo has also become a haven for rare birds, primates; marsupials, big cats and various exotic mammals. Although we found a number of the enclosures a tad too small, especially for Orson, a dark and handsome Brazilian jaguar, and his feline cousins, many are designed to simulate the animals' natural habitats in the wild. The pandas' home, for example, thrives with bamboo shoots, while those of the koalas' with eucalyptus trees.

Orson may seem like a dreamy, oversized cat that growls instead of purrs, but make no mistake about it. The animal is a certified bone-crusher. Just to gauge how powerful his teeth and jaws are, zookeeper Randell Herren, who gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of the cat cages, gave Orson a bowling ball to play with several months back. It didn't take long for him to split the hard and slippery ball into two.

"They're beautiful animals," said Herren, "but I wouldn't want to mess with any of them." He attends to several lions, Chinese and Persian leopards and cheetahs as well. Come feeding time, Herren makes use of several sliding doors to contain the animals. He then sneaks inside their cages to unload chunks of beef, mutton or rabbit meat. Orson had beef that day.

"Yes, they're small and a little outdated, but I've seen worse," he explained, after we pointed out the small cat enclosures. "The animals have grown used to it. It's not just the size [of their cages], but also the quality of care they get."

Stress-free

He might have a point. None of the animals showed obvious signs of stress or injury. A pair of frolicking polar bears in a refrigerated pool was a delight to watch. Koalas, kangaroos and even the sinister-looking and restless Tasmanian devil (look what a cartoon series can do!) also had their share of admirers. A pair of elephants from Africa and Asia coexisted peacefully as they licked the summer heat away with giant popsicles that hang from trees.

The Ituri Forest tries to replicate a central African jungle. Guests can marvel at okapis, hippos, forest buffalos, spotted-neck otters, monkeys and various tropical birds sans the unbearable heat and unseen dangers posed by quicksand, piranha-infested rivers, deadly viruses and headhunting natives.

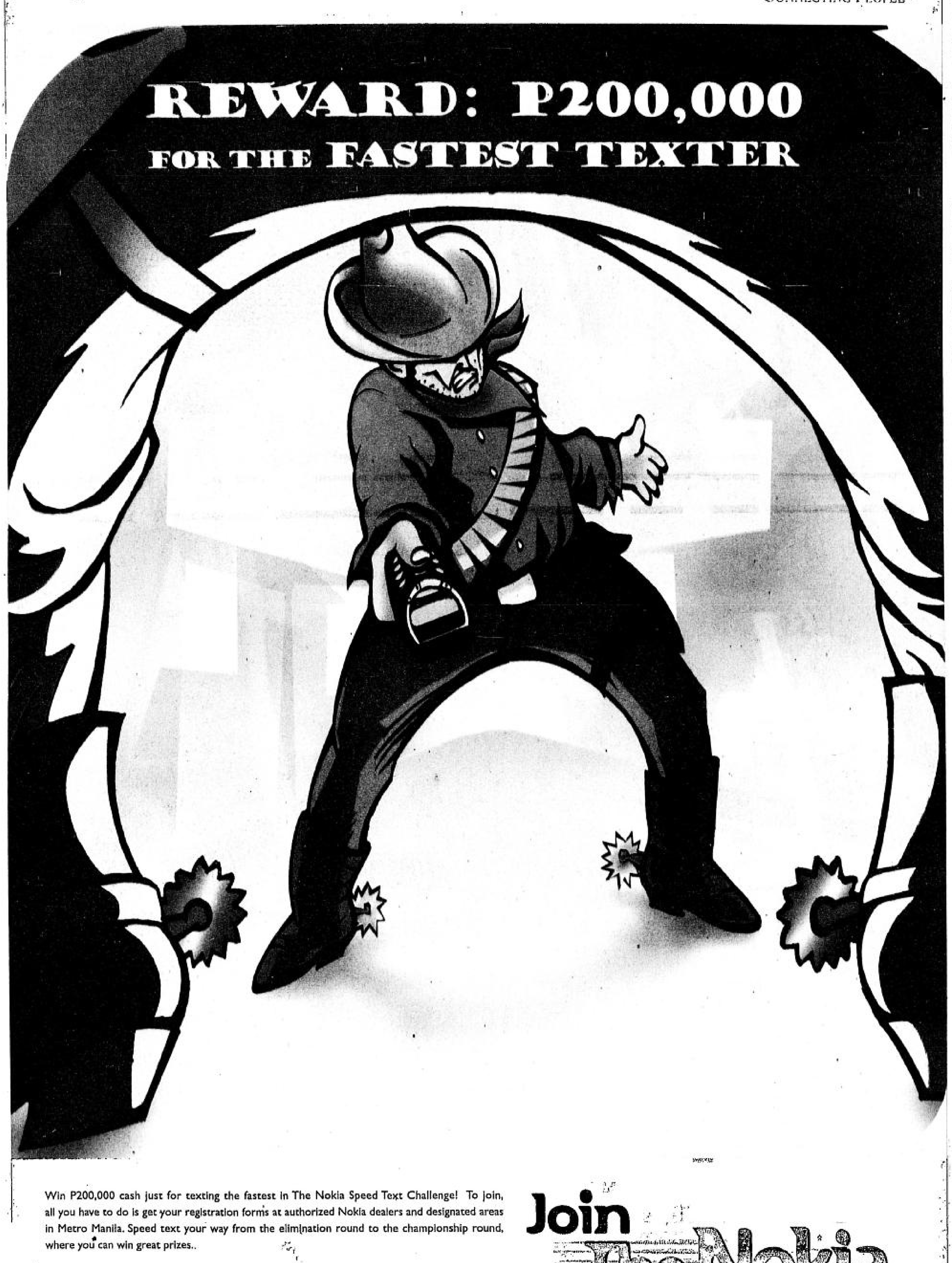
Under the supervision of trained zookeepers, guests are even free to feed a number of animals. We found ourselves waving leafy branches to attract the attention of a shy giraffe named Silver. The long and gentle creature soon emerged from his enclosure and lost no time nibbling at his lunch. Such was his power that he soon snatched the entire branch from our hands with ease.

These and other creatures comprise more than 800 species and subspecies of animals that still roam the earth. There are zoos and there are zoos. So what sets the San Diego Zoo apart from the rest?

"It's a place for orphaned, injured and endangered animals," said Morihiro. "We don't capture animals for exhibition. So as not to end up with more animals than we could handle, we limit trade and breeding programs." Rarely does money exchange hands in the procurement of animals.

The San Diego Zoo has also become a venue for education. Each year tens of thousands of

MORE/p.C6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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3906, Series of 2001

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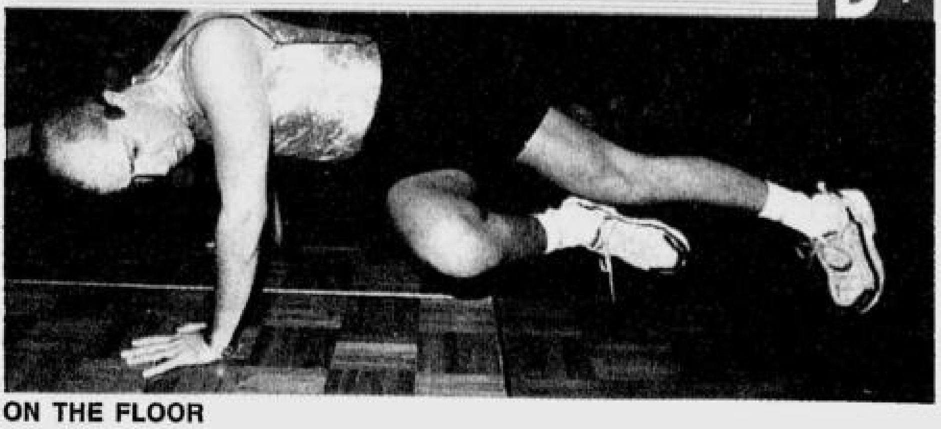
FITNESS professional Lawrence Biscontini introduces "*yo-chi*" to Manila.

And now, a yoga and taichi combo



ON THE FLOOR

It took an American fitness pro to mix and match the two Eastern disciplines to benefit both mind and body

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

LOOKING for new ways to jazz up those boring, repetitive fitness routines? In search of effective methods to lose those unwanted pounds, especially after a slew of Christmas parties? You don't have to go far or look westward to find the ideal program. Fitness buffs can now combine the aerobic and toning benefits of two ancient Eastern disciplines in one exercise session.

American fitness professional Lawrence Biscontini recently introduced Filipino colleagues to "*yo-chi*," a new discipline he himself designed that's said to blend the benefits derived from yoga and taichi. Puerto Rico-based Biscontini, group exercise manager of the Golden Door Spa, and partner Jeff Howard were in Manila recently upon the invitation of the Association of Fitness Professional in the Phils.

"Yoga and taichi have been around forever," said Howard. "Yo-chi has been around less than five [years]. It took Lawrence four years to develop it." To grasp the full impact of yo-chi, it helps to understand the fundamentals of both yoga and taichi.

Yoga, he added, is a more "individualistic" form of exercise requiring a great deal of concentration. Big muscles have nothing to do with it. Rather, yoga promotes flexibility and balance as the person eventually learns to support his own weight while doing a series of gravity-defying poses for long periods.

Since few elderly Americans, especially women, survive falls, learning to balance one's body can spell the difference between life and death. This probably accounts for yoga's popularity among the young as well as the young-once.

"It's an isometric form of exercise that requires you to work from within," said Howard of yoga, which originated in ancient India and the Middle East. "It results in leaner, more elongated muscles."

Although he still spends some time lifting weights, Howard is surprisingly no Rambo. He doesn't have the muscled silhouette of a Sylvester Stallone or an Arnold Schwarzenegger. On the contrary, the Canadian, who at 6'1" towers over most Filipinos, appeared lean. He attributed this to yoga: "Even a beefy man would have a hard time doing yoga unless he learns to support his own body weight."

Kinder, gentler

Taichi, on the other hand, encourages group dynamics. Call it a kinder, more graceful form of step aerobics that dates back to ancient China. Through slow and simultaneous movements, the person and his exercise buddies eventually increase their oxygen intake. Of course, we all know the benefits of increased cardiovascular activity on the body.

"While yoga promotes a deeper perception of one's surroundings," Howard said, "taichi encourages a group of people to work as a single unit." Aside from combining yoga and taichi, Biscontini even arranged music that's said to conform to the different *chakras* or energy centers of the body.

How? Through a 50-minute session that alternately shifts from one form of exercise to another. Instead of doing, say, various yoga poses for an hour, yo-chi practitioners do a certain yoga position for five minutes. They then rise to their feet and swing their arms or feet in unison with a group to engage in five minutes of taichi before reverting to yoga.

Howard then proceeded to demonstrate various yoga and taichi poses to give us an idea. He began by "opening the door," a form of taichi exercise, before doing the "table," a signature yoga pose. He then did the "full white moon" (taichi), followed by the "full warrior" (yoga), before concluding the series by "grabbing the goose's tail" (taichi).

AND/p.D4

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• STRETCHED ZERO INTEREST 48 MONTHS, 20% DOWNPAYMENT

MODEL	SRP	Amount Financed 0% INTEREST (25% of the amount financed)	Amount Financed REGULAR (75% of the amount financed)	Monthly Installments 0% INTEREST	Monthly Installments REGULAR	Monthly Installments TOTAL (A)	Comparison 100% REGULAR (B)	Comparison SAVINGS (difference of A & B x 48 Mos.)
Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 262,000	P 786,000	P 5,458	P 22,680	**P 28,138**	P 30,240	P 100,896
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 137,600	P 412,800	P 2,867	P 11,911	**P 14,778**	P 15,882	P 52,992
Verita	P 698,000	P 139,600	P 418,800	P 2,908	P 12,084	**P 14,992**	P 16,113	P 53,808

Note: Stretched zero interest plan is also available for 24 & 36 months & other passenger car models of NMPI.

• LOW DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME

MODEL	SRP	DOWN PAYMENT	60 Mos.	48 Mos.	36 Mos.
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 88,600	P 13,853	P 16,144	P 20,027
Verita	P 698,000	P 90,600	P 14,054	P 16,379	P 20,318

Note: 18 to 24 months terms also available
Low downpayment plan is also available for other passenger car models of NMPI

• ZERO INTEREST FINANCING SCHEME (12 MONTHS TERM)
(50% downpayment based on SRP)

MODEL	SRP	Monthly Installment
Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 54,584
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 28,667
Verita	P 698,000	P 29,084

Note: Zero interest plan is also available for other passenger car models of NMPI
Monthly installment is computed on 50% amount financed

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3920, series of 2001

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Tel Nos. 932-0428 932-4001
NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS
Ortigas Ave. corner C 5 1110 Libis, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 438-4539 to 40, 633-2545 to 47, 635 5888, 634-8754
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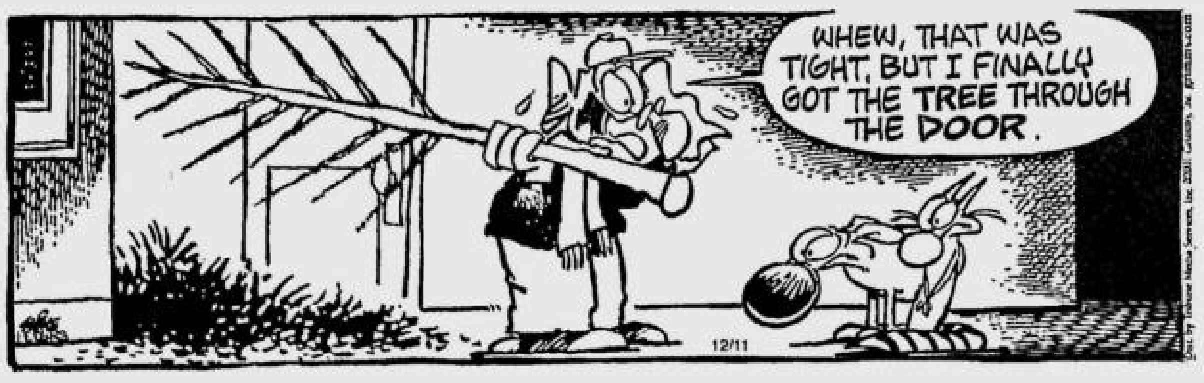
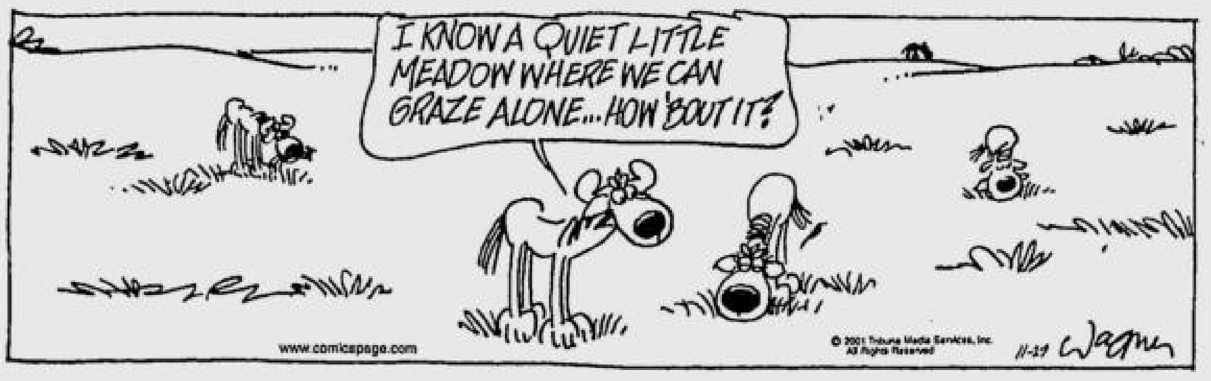
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHEW, THAT WAS TIGHT, BUT I FINALLY GOT THE TREE THROUGH THE DOOR.
12/11

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I KNOW A QUIET LITTLE MEADOW WHERE WE CAN GRAZE ALONE...HOW 'BOUT IT?
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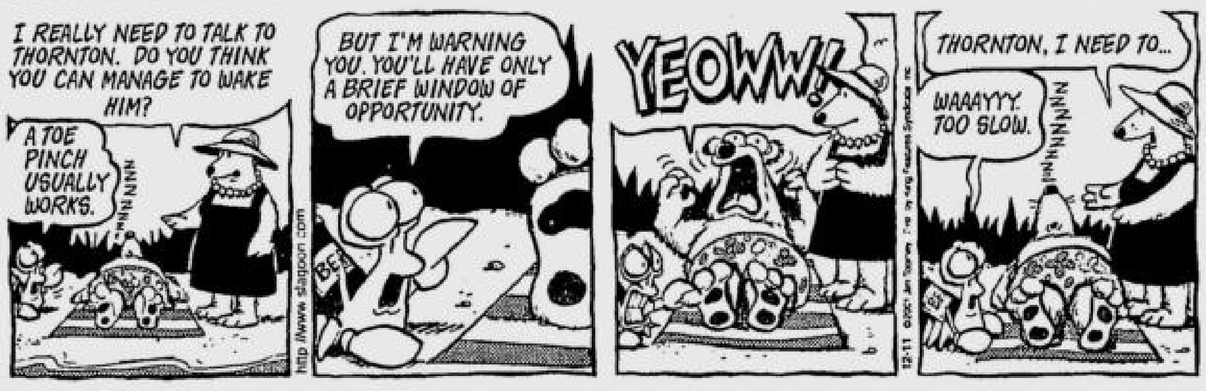
11-29 Wagner

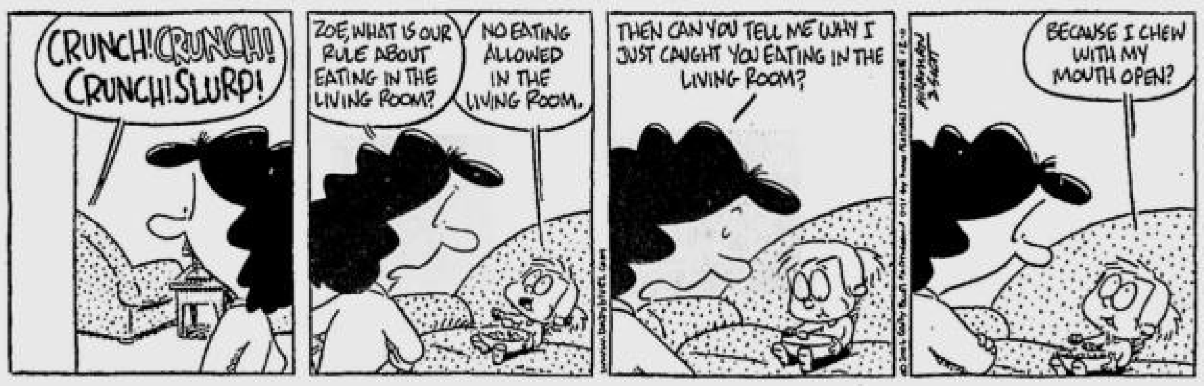
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO THORNTON. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MANAGE TO WAKE HIM?
A TOE PINCH USUALLY WORKS.
NNNNNN
http://www.slagoon.com
BUT I'M WARNING YOU. YOU'LL HAVE ONLY A BRIEF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY.
YEOWW!
12-11
THORNTON, I NEED TO...
WAAAYYY. TOO SLOW.
NNNNNNN

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH! SLURP!
ZOE, WHAT IS OUR RULE ABOUT EATING IN THE LIVING ROOM?
NO EATING ALLOWED IN THE LIVING ROOM.
THEN CAN YOU TELL ME WHY I JUST CAUGHT YOU EATING IN THE LIVING ROOM?
BECAUSE I CHEW WITH MY MOUTH OPEN?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Teri Garr, Nicki Sixx, Jermaine Jackson, Christina Onassis, Brenda Lee, Donna Mills, Rita Moreno, Tom Hayden, Carlo Ponti

Happy Birthday: The year ahead will be one of grandeur if you let your imagination flow and you let your distinctive style surface. More conservative people will find you hard to resist and will therefore be willing to support your ideas with the funds you require to get things off the ground. Don't hesitate, make headway. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 29, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of your own problems before you go trying to solve everyone else's. Consider making changes to your living quarters that will make you feel more at home and comfortable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to what you do best and don't mix business with pleasure today. You can get ahead if you present your ideas to people in a position to help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Travel should be put on the back burner. You won't accomplish what you set out to do today so you are best to put your time into taking care of yourself and your emotional well being.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you haven't been getting along with an older relative you may want to make peace. After all, you are both entitled to your own opinions. You may come into money, but not under the best circumstances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Collect yourself and your thoughts and don't let anyone get to you. Lowered vitality is likely to affect your work. If you need time off take it. You will do a much better job if you are refreshed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful while traveling. You may have difficulties with foreigners. Problems with relatives may be more damaging than you realize. You have to put yourself first today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be a little careless today. Be watchful with your valuables, loss or theft is evident. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Be sure to have explanations for your actions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You don't have to be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally. Take a different approach and make an offer that will be hard for anyone to turn down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Build your strength and confidence. Talk to superiors about your future plans and you will be able to tell if you are with the right company or not.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand tall and forge ahead. Don't reveal your intentions or ideas just yet. You are best to listen for the time being until you know what everyone else is thinking and planning to do.

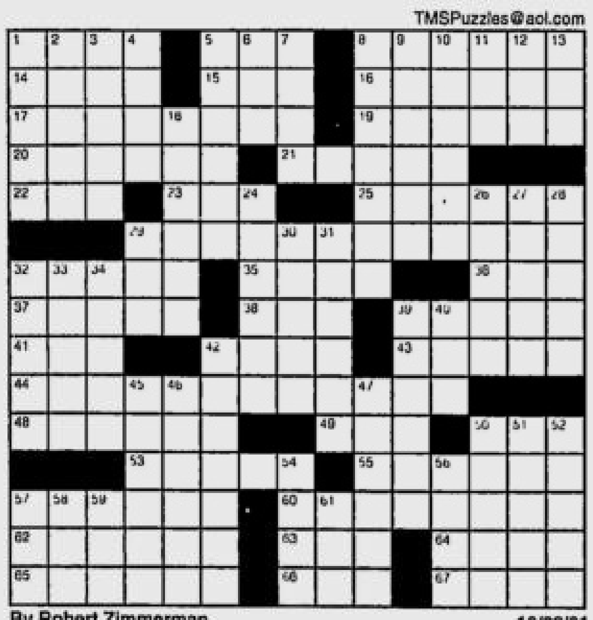
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your communicative skills will be great, however there are those around you eager to twist your words and make you look bad in front of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will win points if you take the time to do something nice for your friends and relatives. You will reap the rewards for your kind actions. You will be lucky today. Money you don't have to work for is evident.

Birthday Baby: You have a free-spirited nature and a vast outlook. Your willingness to cast your fate to the wind and let the chips fall where they may will lead you in many interesting directions throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

10/26/01

ACROSS
1 Sky shade
5 Ticket info
8 Having a motif
14 Ready to pick
15 Age
16 "Epodes" author
17 Roman bed?
19 Ross Island volcano
20 Nativity scene
21 Bound by an oath
22 Last of a command?
23 Clerical vestment
25 Newcomer
29 Roman curse?
32 Century plant
35 Phony
36 Toothlike projection
37 Monkey suits
38 Command to Fido
39 Die down
41 Mai __ cocktail
42 Losing proposition?
43 Jabbed
44 Feature of a Roman chariot?
48 Minolta or Nikon
49 Outermost point
50 New World nat.
53 Navigation aid
55 Squanders
57 Pogo, for one
60 How a Roman scrambles?
62 Satellite of Jupiter
63 Sense organ
64 Out of the wind
65 Makes amends
66 Directed
67 Campers' shelter

DOWN
1 Fannie on stage
2 Pierre's book
3 Higher one of two
4 Fairness in the workplace grp.
5 Pass gossip
6 Mineral vein
7 Violent conflicts
8 Math proposition
9 Repugnance
10 Heretofore
11 Queen of the fairies
12 French silver crown
13 __ Moines
18 Doesn't grow a beard
24 Jazz singer Smith
26 Savalas role
27 Ticked off
28 Moved slowly
29 "__ Gotta Be Me"
30 Caan movie
31 Snitch
32 Garret
33 Tropical fruit
34 Self-evident truth
39 Footless
40 Qns. or S.I.
42 Buddhist and Hindu principles
45 A Rockefeller
46 Road company
47 Forth
50 Functional
51 1996 Pitt film
52 Net worth item
54 Playwright Coward
56 Louver
57 "The Princess and the __"
58 Not at home
59 Sell-out letters
61 Burns' negative

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

W	A	D	E	■	P	A	G	A	N	■	U	C	L	A
A	L	E	X	■	E	L	L	I	E	■	N	E	O	N
S	A	F	E	T	Y	B	E	L	T	■	S	N	U	G
P	S	Y	C	H	O	S	E	S	■	P	U	T	T	S
■	■	■	R	E	T	■	■	■	F	O	R	E	S	T
D	E	B	A	S	E	S	■	T	A	P	E	R	■	■
E	L	A	T	E	■	P	U	R	R	S	■	F	A	T
M	A	C	E	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	H	O	L	E
I	L	K	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	P	U	L	S	E
■	■	H	O	N	E	D	■	S	H	E	L	D	O	N
F	R	A	N	K	S	■	■	■	E	R	A	■	■	■
L	I	N	U	S	■	O	V	E	R	T	H	R	O	W
O	D	D	S	■	G	U	A	R	D	H	O	U	S	E
O	G	E	E	■	O	S	S	I	E	■	O	L	L	A
R	E	D	S	■	O	T	T	E	R	■	P	E	O	N

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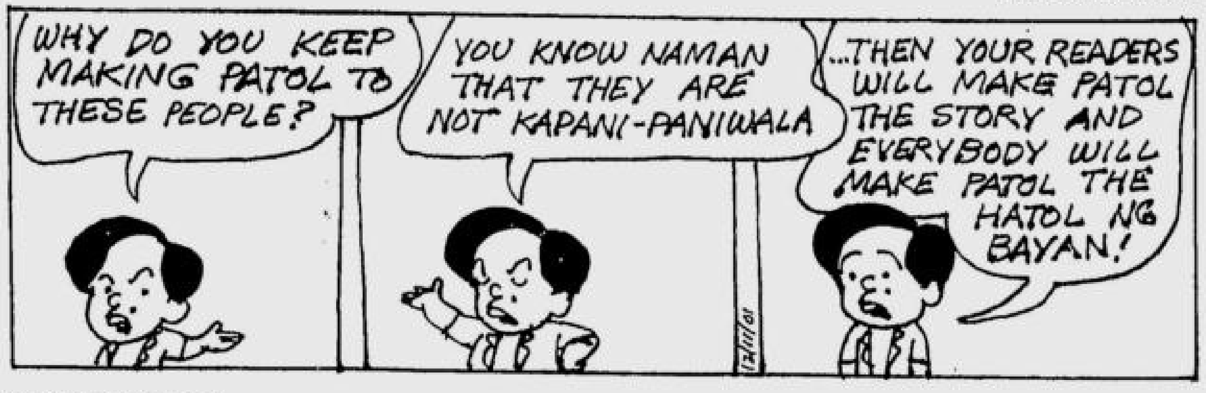
10/26/01

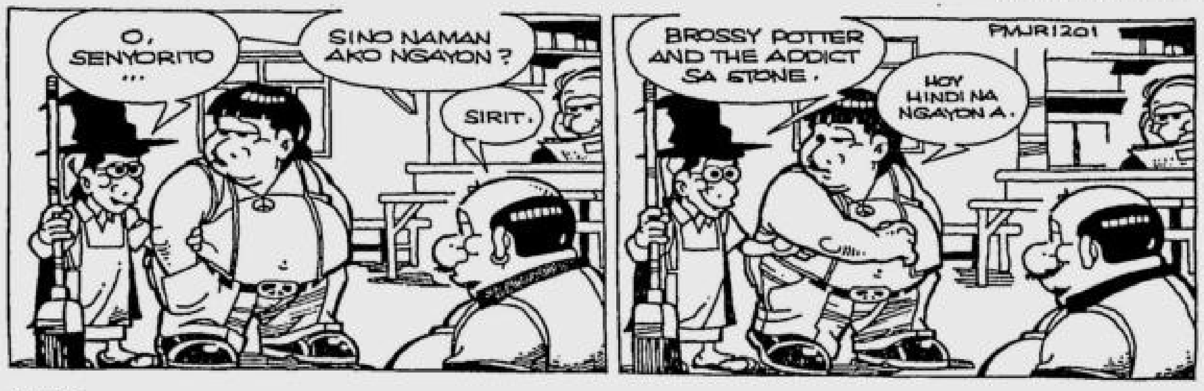
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WHY DO YOU KEEP MAKING PATOL TO THESE PEOPLE?
YOU KNOW NAMAN THAT THEY ARE NOT KAPANI-PANIWALA
...THEN YOUR READERS WILL MAKE PATOL THE STORY AND EVERYBODY WILL MAKE PATOL THE HATOL NG BAYAN!
12/11/01

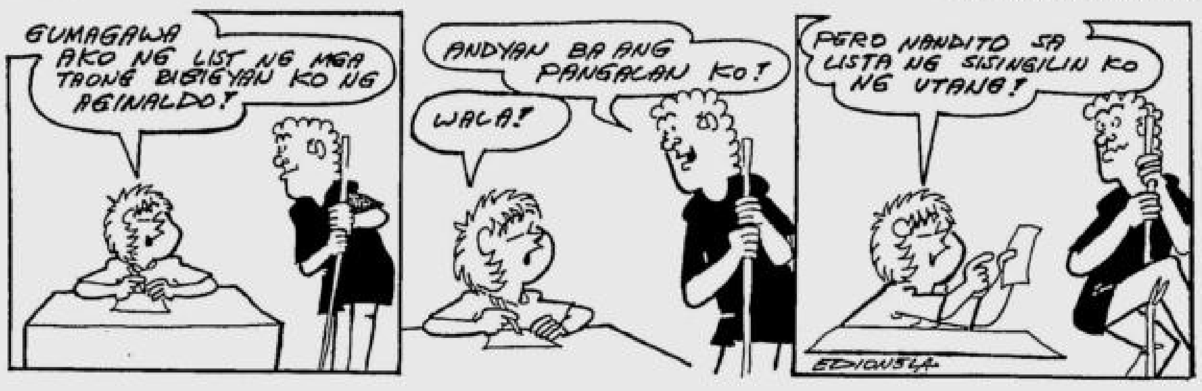
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, SENYORITO ...
SINO NAMAN AKO NGAYON?
SIRIT.
PMJR1201
BROSSY POTTER AND THE ADDICT SA STONE.
HOY HINDI NA NGAYON A.

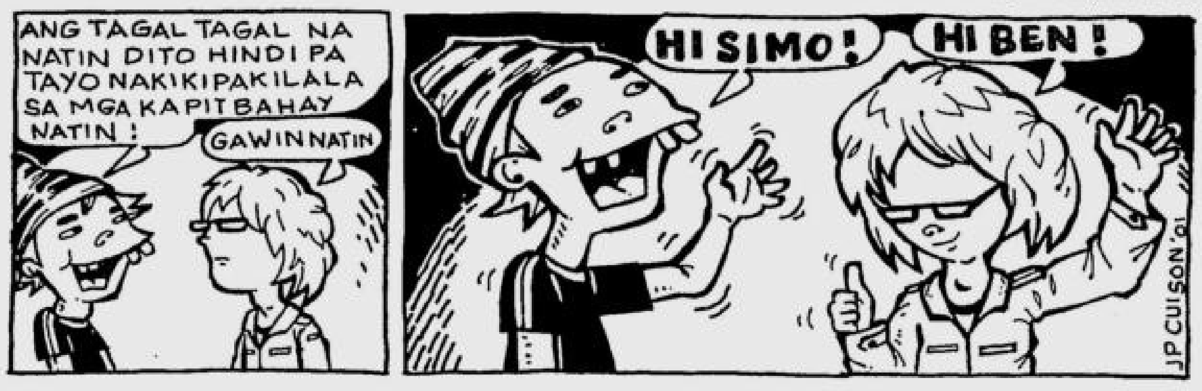
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


GUMAGAWA AKO NG LIST NG MGA TAONG BIBIGYAN KO NG AGINALDO!
ANDYAN BA ANG PANGALAN KO?
WALA!
PERO NANDITO SA LISTA NG SISINGILIN KO NG UTANG!
EDIONELA

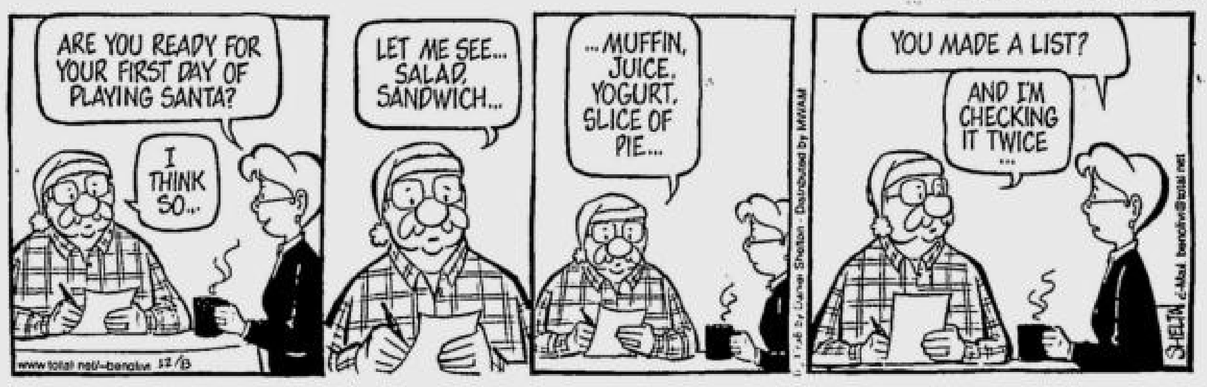
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


ANG TAGAL TAGAL NA NATIN DITO HINDI PA TAYO NAKIKIPAKILALA SA MGA KAPITBAHAY NATIN!
GAWIN NATIN
HI SIMO!
HI BEN!
JP CUISON '01

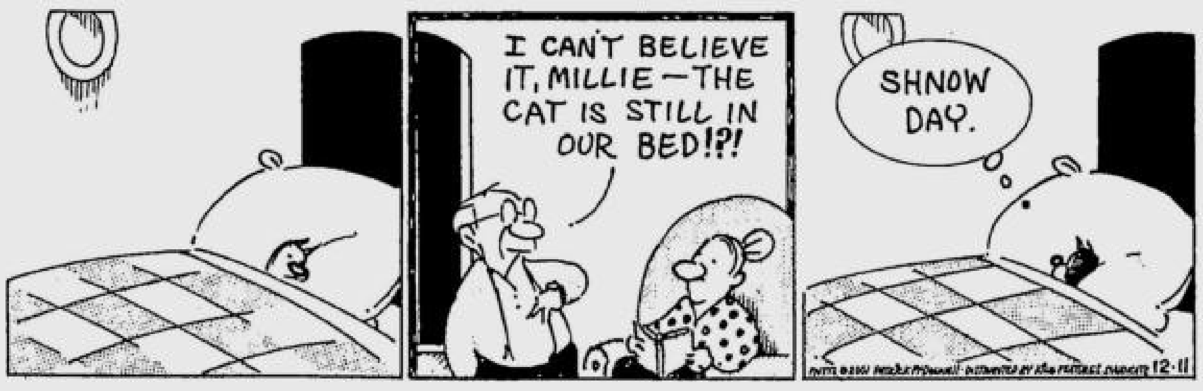
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR FIRST DAY OF PLAYING SANTA?
I THINK SO...
LET ME SEE... SALAD, SANDWICH...
...MUFFIN, JUICE, YOGURT, SLICE OF PIE...
YOU MADE A LIST?
AND I'M CHECKING IT TWICE ...
SHELTON

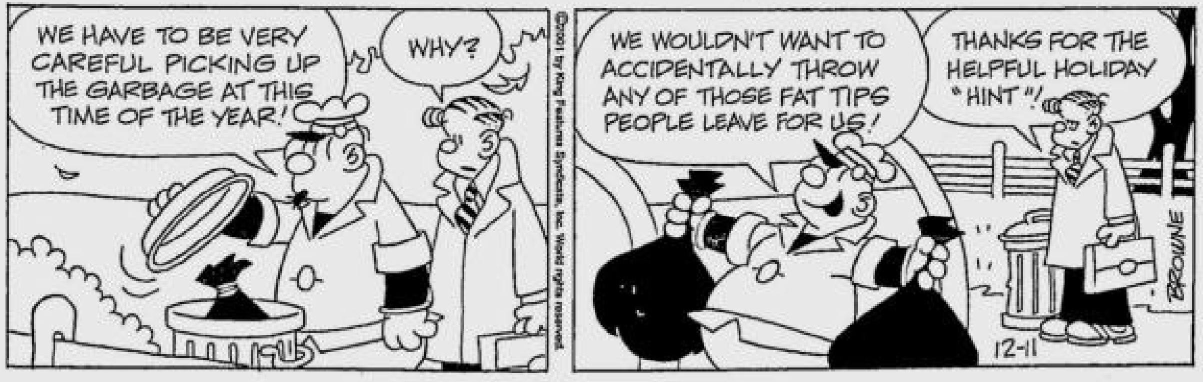
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, MILLIE—THE CAT IS STILL IN OUR BED!?!
SHNOW DAY.
12-11

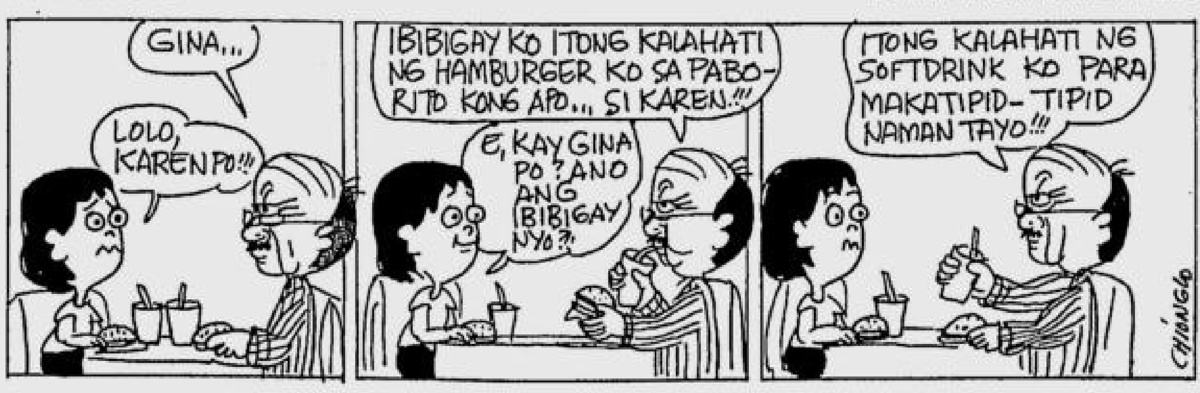
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL PICKING UP THE GARBAGE AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR!
WHY?
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WE WOULDN'T WANT TO ACCIDENTALLY THROW ANY OF THOSE FAT TIPS PEOPLE LEAVE FOR US!
THANKS FOR THE HELPFUL HOLIDAY "HINT"!
BROWNE
12-11

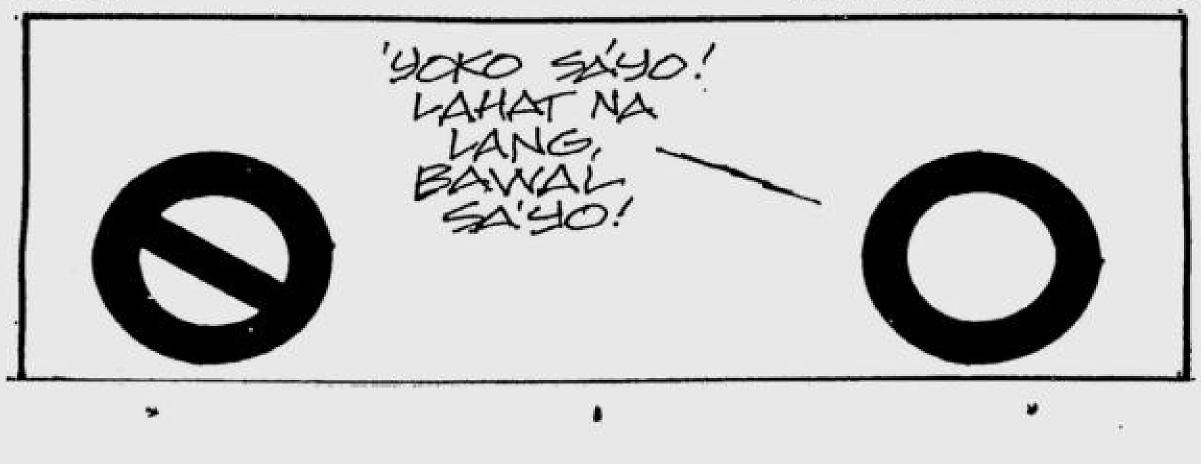
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

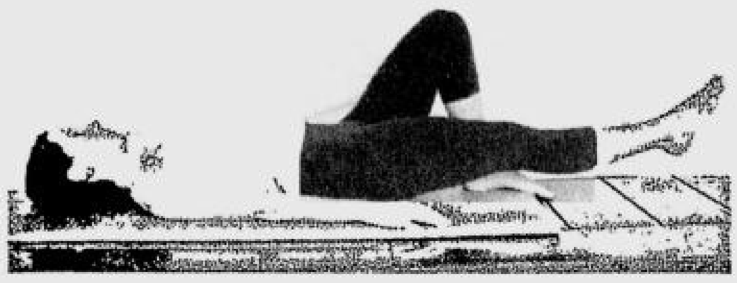

GINA...
LOLO, KAREN PO!!!
IBIBIGAY KO ITONG KALAHATI NG HAMBURGER KO SA PABORITO KONG APO... SI KAREN!!!
E, KAY GINA PO? ANO ANG IBIBIGAY NYO?!
ITONG KALAHATI NG SOFTDRINK KO PARA MAKATIPID-TIPID NAMAN TAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'YOKO SA'YO! LAHAT NA LANG, BAWAL SA'YO!

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Single leg bridge

Strengthens the buttocks and back of the thighs (hamstrings) of the bent leg; front of the thighs of the straight leg and abdominal muscles (acting as stabilizers).

Exercise:

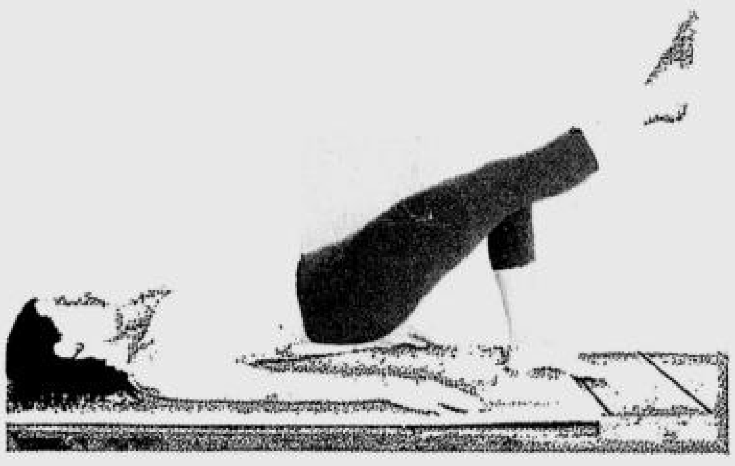
1. Lie down with one leg bent, foot flat on the floor, the other leg straight.
2. Tighten abdominals and lift straight leg an inch or two off the floor. Body weight will now be carried by the bent leg.
3. Push hips up by pressing hard on the floor with the foot of the bent leg and by squeezing the buttocks and back of the thighs.
4. Do not lift the straight leg but allow it to be pulled up together with the hips.
5. Hold for eight slow counts. Breathe continuously.
6. Slowly lower to the floor. Repeat on the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. This is an advanced exercise. You can start out by bending both knees and keeping both feet flat on the floor.
2. As you get stronger, do it with one leg straight.
3. To make the exercise a little easier, hold the straight leg directly above the hips instead of in line with the other knee.
4. Be sure to tighten abdominals before you even lift the straight leg a few inches off the floor. Continue to maintain the tightness of the abs all throughout the exercise. Do not allow the lower back to sag.
5. Do not hold your breath while holding the position for eight counts.

Repetitions:

Holding the positions for eight slow counts on each leg makes one set. Do four to six sets.



Getting back in shape after giving birth

Part II

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

STRENGTHENING upper back muscles helps new mothers carry breasts that are heavily laden with milk and prevents shoulder strain. While sitting or standing, just squeeze your shoulder blades together and hold for a count of five as you exhale. You can start doing this exercise during the first week.

Stretch your lower back by kneeling on your hands and knees, pulling your navel in and rounding your spine as you exhale, then slightly arch your spine as you inhale. This stretch can be done starting from the first week as soon as you are ready.

Strengthen your lower back with the "opposite arm and leg lift" starting from the second or third week. Kneeling on your hands and knees, lift the right arm to shoulder height and your left leg to hip height while keeping your spine straight. Repeat on the other side.

Stretches

Gently stretch muscles in your upper and lower body while lying or sitting in bed. Be careful not to overstretch because relaxin, a hormone that softens joints (this allows the pelvic bones to spread so the baby can pass through), is present in your body for the first six weeks.

Aerobics

Walking is the easiest and safest aerobic activity to do in the first few weeks. Begin by walking around your hospital room or corridor for 10 minutes daily. I discovered this is the quickest way to recover from a caesarean section. Experts say it improves circulation and bowel function and prevents scar adhesions. Slowly build up walking time over the next six weeks according to how you feel.

After six weeks, you can continue your walking program or choose from cycling (a reclined stationary bike may be more comfortable), low impact dance aerobics, or even step aerobics on a four-inch bench. Swimming and aqua aerobics are also good choices but to avoid infection, make sure that bleeding has stopped and your episiotomy has healed completely before getting into the pool. Avoid all jumping, bouncing and jarring movements until pelvic area is completely healed.

Strength training

A mild weight lifting program can be started after six weeks using rubber bands or light dumbbells and ankle weights. If you lifted weights while you were pregnant, you can lift slightly heavier weights using machines or free weights.

Breastfeeding and exercise

Moderate intensity exercise does not affect milk quantity and quality. In fact, there is some evidence that it increases milk volume and caloric and protein content. Extremely vigorous activity may cause the milk to have a sour taste because of lactic acid buildup (a chemical by-product of very intense exercise), so stick to moderate intensity exercise only. Besides, exercising to fatigue can affect milk quantity.

Breastfeeding would seem to be a good way to lose weight because you burn 500 calories a day just to make breast milk. For some women, this is true. However, many women take in too many excess calories because prolactin, the hormone that stimulates milk production, also increases the appetite. It is nature's way of making sure you eat enough to produce good quality milk for your baby. Most women find that they lose weight after they stop breastfeeding because, without realizing it, they eat less due to dropping prolactin levels. Besides, the body retains more fluid while you are nursing.

You may experience milk leaking ("let down") during exercise so wear breast pads, which will also prevent nipple irritation. Exercise after you have fed your baby. Use a good support bra. Drink lots of fluid (8-12 glasses daily) to maintain milk volume and make up for water loss through sweating. A good tip is to drink 8 ounces of fluid after every feeding.

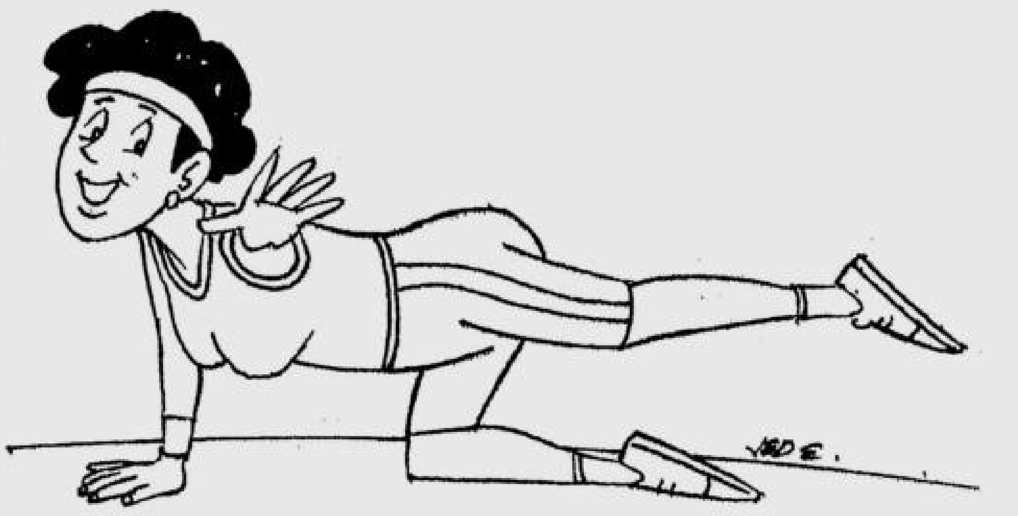


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

With patience and determination, you can get your old body back. Through exercises, stretches, strength training and aerobics—all in moderation

Danger signals

Stop exercising and see your doctor if you develop a fever, begin to bleed heavily, notice bright red blood, feel too much pressure on pelvic area or your C-section scar hurts with exertion.

You will get your body back in time.

Some women are so anxious to return to their previous shape they injure themselves from trying to do too much exercise too soon. It took nine months for your body to expand; it will take just as long or slightly longer to get back in shape. I know through my own experience and the experience of many of my clients over the last 10 years that with patience and determination it is possible to get your "old" body back.

For questions and past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

New look, tubular fun

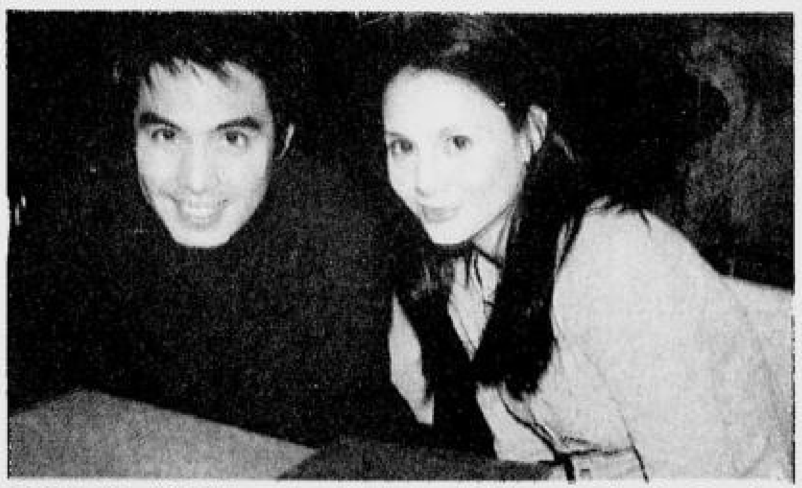
THE SM Megamall ice-skating rink, the site of the coolest fun in town for nearly a decade now, recently reopened with a new look after a month-long renovation. Inspired by European skating rinks, it now has a colorful entry wall and an area where trophies won by the SM ice skating team are displayed.

The newly renovated ice rink has brightly colored lobby, lockers and ticket booth. Tubular grid ceilings and metal halides were also installed to enhance the lighting. Skaters can also chill out after a rigorous session with the rink's food and drinks.

One of the first to enjoy the newly renovated rink were the "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" stars, who held their "Lovely Vanessa" segment recently at the rink. The segment features MTB host Vanessa del Bianco, who's an experienced ice skater from Canada.

Joining her in dance numbers were SM ice skaters Jericho Lun, Samantha Lim, Francesca Laureano and Lea Faith Felipe. The mall crowd packed the area as Vanessa gracefully glided across the rink.

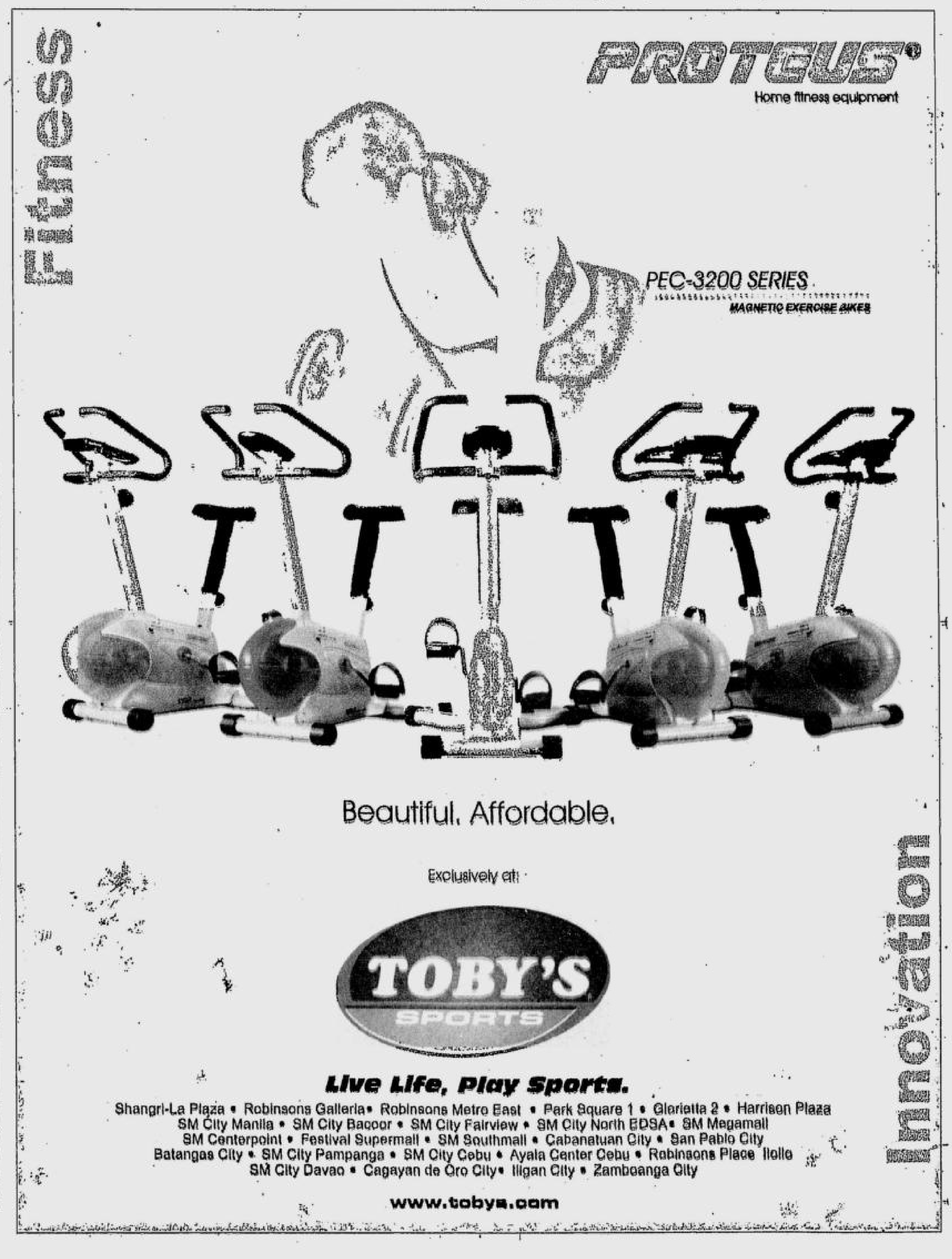
It was also a great time for star gazing as some of Vanessa's show biz pals came to join the fun. They included "MTB" funnymen Bentong and Gary Lim, as well as Onemig Bondoc, Jodie Santamaria, Cheska Garcia, Sarah Christopher, Jannus del Prado and Bojo Molina. The attraction is located at LG/L SM Megamall Mega A.



CHILLING. "MTB's" guests Onemig Bondoc and Cheska Garcia

SM'S ice hocker Mark Solis was one of the guests of "MTB" at the rink.

VANESSA with SM's ice skater Lea Faith Felipe



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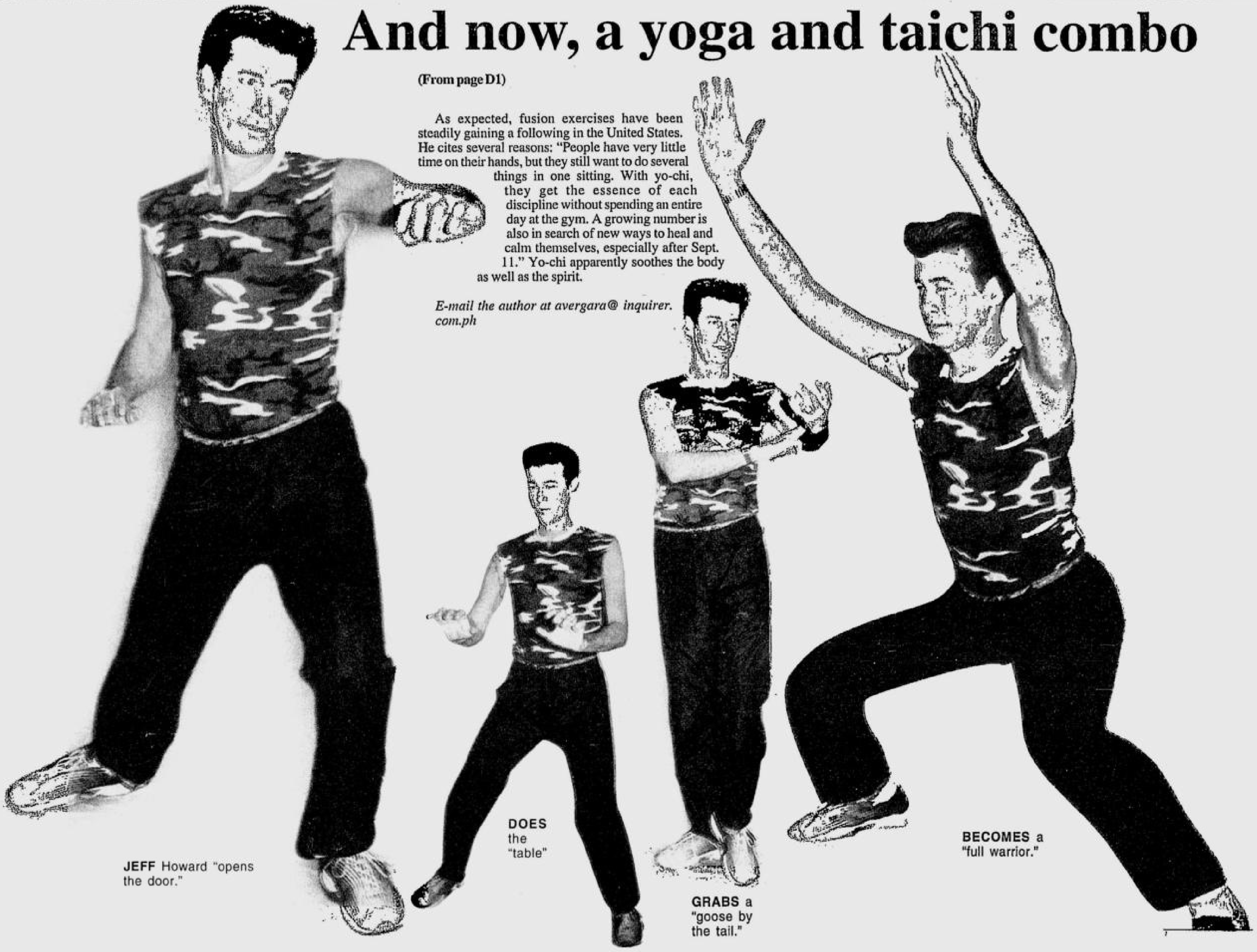
www.tobys.com

And now, a yoga and taichi combo

(From page D1)

As expected, fusion exercises have been steadily gaining a following in the United States. He cites several reasons: "People have very little time on their hands, but they still want to do several things in one sitting. With yo-chi, they get the essence of each discipline without spending an entire day at the gym. A growing number is also in search of new ways to heal and calm themselves, especially after Sept. 11." Yo-chi apparently soothes the body as well as the spirit.

E-mail the author at avergara@ inquirer. com.ph



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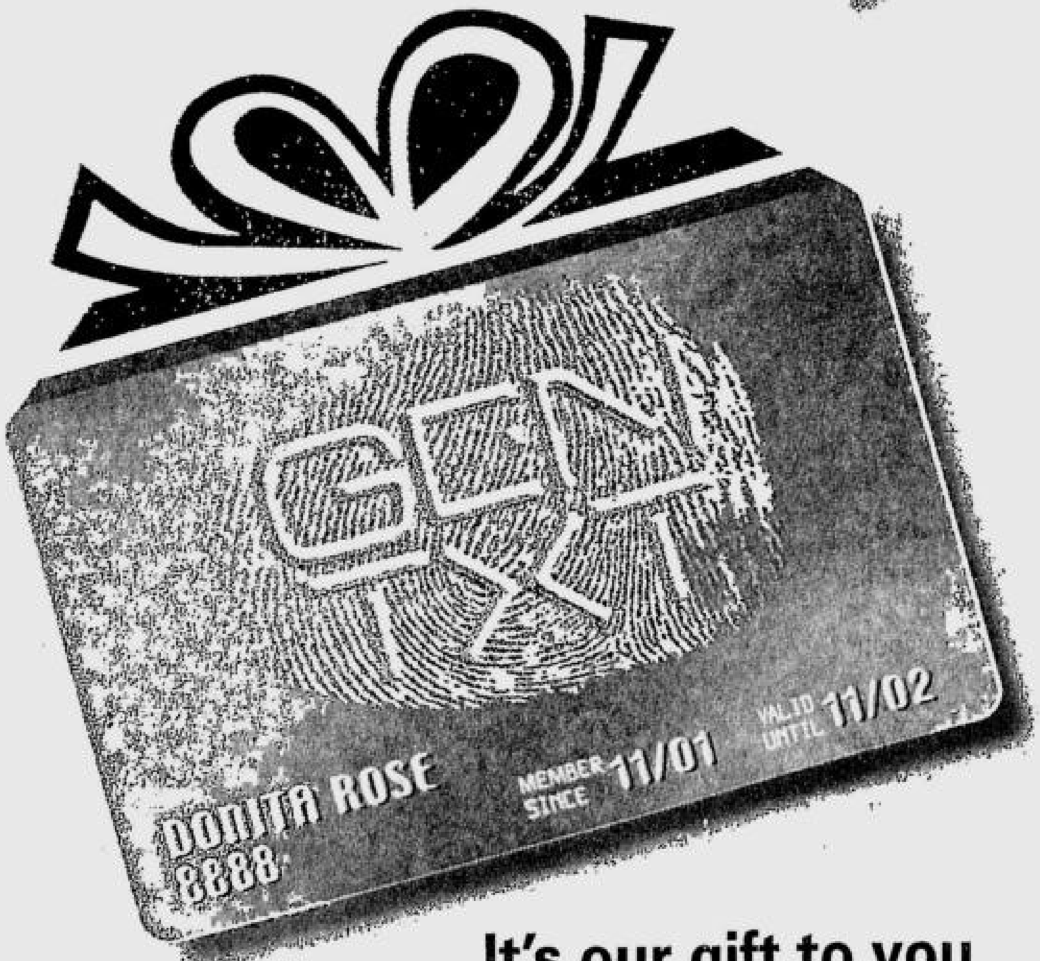

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A new understanding of diabetics

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

NETWORKS of supportive family, friends and colleagues are as important as medication in relation to a diabetic's ability to manage his condition, says a study of Novo Nordisk, a diabetes care company.

The DAWN (Diabetes Attitudes, Wishes and Needs) study addresses the perceptions and attitudes of more than 5,000 diabetics and 3,000 diabetes healthcare professionals in Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Spain, UK and USA. It also shows that social networks that put too much pressure on relatives or friends with diabetes by constant interference, though well meant, have marked a negative effect on how the condition is dealt with.

"There is more to treating and managing diabetes than medicines. Through the DAWN study, we now have a much better understanding of diabetics and identify the issues causing their poor self-management. We have to understand what motivates them to do what they do. But we must also change to accommodate the critical role of the family that the study has uncovered," says Eric Reurts, general manager of Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals (Philippines) Inc.

He adds that diabetes is growing into one of the most costly diseases globally in both human and economic terms. Today, there are 150 million people with diabetes worldwide. By the year 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the overall number of diabetics will have increased to 300 million.

Although infectious diseases still constitute the leading cause of mortality in developing countries, the WHO predicts that non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases will become the world's main disablers and killers within the next quarter-century.

Recent research shows that diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people aged 20-74 years and end-stage renal disease. The risk of leg amputation, heart disease and stroke is much higher for diabetics compared to those without diabetes.

"These complications are a result of many years of uncontrolled diabetes. If these are not treated properly, they will just add to the total cost," Reurts emphasizes.

Healthcare access

Mechanisms for public financing of healthcare are non-existent in most developing countries, thus health costs typically represent out-of-pocket expenditures for people with severely limited means. In many instances, the choice is between healthcare and food or clothing. Such financial constraints inevitably result in under-consumption of healthcare services.

DISCUSSING the Life-Saving Initiatives on Diabetes Care are (from left) Dr. Nestor Santiago, head of coronary care unit at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC); Dr. Adelaida Iboleon-Dy, assistant head, SLMC's Heart Institute's coronary care unit; Dr. Editha Arceo-Dalisay, secretary of the board of trustees, UE Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation Inc.; and Eric Reurts, Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals (Philippines) Inc.

Thus, Novo Nordisk helps to improve people's access to healthcare, specifically diabetes care. It focuses on development of national disease strategies, building of national healthcare capacity, provision of best possible pricing and additional funding in order to balance economic viability and social responsibility.

"Once one is diagnosed with diabetes, he must be educated on how to manage it for a doctor can't do it for him. Everything you do has an impact on one's blood sugar level. A change in one's lifestyle is necessary. Eat healthy, exercise more, avoid smoking," Reurts says.

In the Philippines, there are about 4 million diabetics, with more than 3 million not knowing they have it. Out of the 1 million who know they have the disease, only 200,000 are undergoing treatment.

"There's a potential time bomb here in numbers of people who are going to develop the complications of diabetes. Only a few are diagnosed and treated due to inaccessibility to health care and medication, lack of government spending on health care, meaning patients have to provide for their own medication and education.

ERIC Reurts, GM of Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals (Philippines) Inc.

A new global study says that people who are cut off from a community of support do not only manage diabetes ineffectively, they also feel worse within themselves

But even in countries where there's free medication and access to health care, the control of diabetes is not a lot better than in the Philippines because something is wrong in the education aspect," Reurts says.

To help combat diabetes in developing countries, Novo Nordisk implements a new price policy, wherein insulin is offered in the poorest countries at prices not exceeding 20 percent of the average price in North America, Europe and Japan.

The company has also established the World Diabetes Foundation, which aims to support access to diabetes care in terms of education, awareness and treatment in developing countries.

Tight control of blood glucose levels with insulin therapy significantly reduces the rate of death and complications in intensive care unit (ICU) patients, according to findings of Belgium researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Life-saving effect of insulin

The researchers found that, compared to standard therapy with insulin, intensive insulin therapy reduced ICU mortality by 42 percent.

The study, which was supported by the Belgium Fund for Scientific Research, the Research Council of the University of Leuven, the Belgian Foundation for Research in Congenital Heart Diseases and Novo Nordisk, Denmark, was recently presented to St. Luke's Medical Center. According to Reurts, the hospital is willing to try the experiment with Novo Nordisk financing it.

"The financial burden on society or government is enormous. Unless drastic measures are taken, it's going to be a frightening prospect. Everybody has a role to play in either preventing or controlling it once you have it. The diabetic has to seek information, adapt it, be positive about it and live with it instead of allowing diabetes to lead his life," Reurts says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

DEC GENTXT gigguide

movies
- GENTXT Movie Night " Rock Star"
Date : December 08
Time : 8:00 pm
Venue: Glorietta 4 THX Cinema 3

events
- GENTXT Billiards Night featuring "The Groove"
Date : December 04
Time : 7:00 pm
Venue: Gameworx, Festival Mall
- M2M Live!
Date : December 07
Time : 6:00 pm
Venue: World Trade Centre, Manila
- "The Company" Live
Date : December 14
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue: Summit Bar, Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao
- Hard Rock Concert Series
Date : December 12 (South Border)
December 20 (FreeStyle)
December 29 (Side A)
Time : 9:30 pm
Venue: Hard Rock Café, Glorietta 3

parties
- StreetLife Re-Opening Party
Date : December 12
Time : 7:30 pm
Venue : Glorietta 2
- GENTXT Winter Rush
Date : December 15
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue : Where Else, Hotel Inter-Continental
- GRILLA Christmas Party
Date : December 19
Time : 8:00 pm
Venue : Grilla, Libis
- Skybox 1st Anniversary Year-end Party
Date : December 28
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue : Skybox Restaurant & Bar, Baguio

dining
- Enjoy some delectable goodies at Biscotti en Cocolat and Art Avenue this season. Visit www.gentxt.com.ph for more details.

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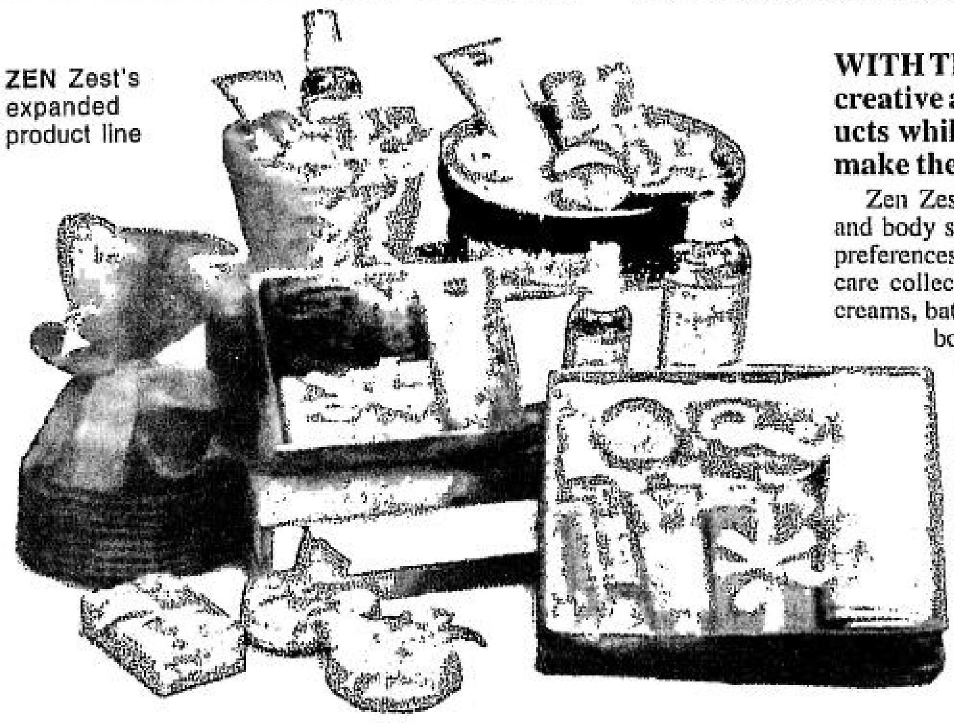


ZEN Zest's expanded product line

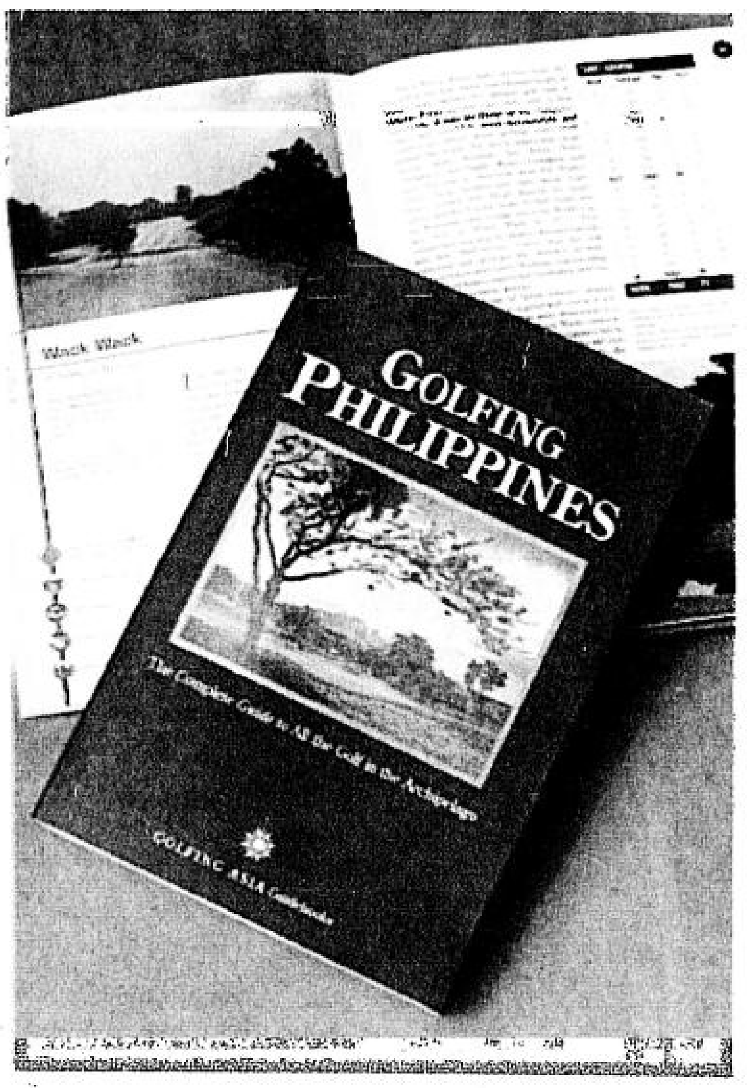
WITH THE YULETIDE season already here, Zen Zest's creative and innovative approach to packaging its products while using native and locally available materials, make them the perfect gift items.

Zen Zest's expanded product line includes fragrances, perfumes and body sprays designed and formulated for a wide range of mood preferences inspired by the colors and smell of nature, as well as body care collection consisting of body scrubs, bath gels, hand and nail creams, bath salts, and hand and body lotions. Zen Zest's newest talc body scrub blends talc and crushed almond that's sure to make skin baby smooth with a lasting, powdery scent.

Also available are all-natural and handcrafted soaps, aromatherapy, bath accessories and ambience products, facial mist, sheet spray and room spray.

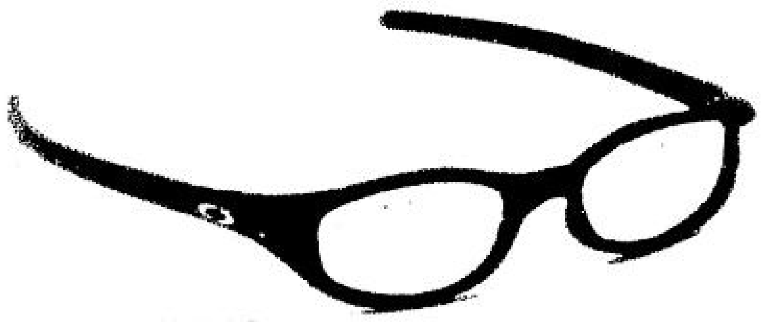
Only six months after it first set up a kiosk at SM Megamall, Zen Zest has opened five more kiosks at SM City North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Sucat, SM Bacoor and NCC Davao.

ZEN Zest's holiday gift items



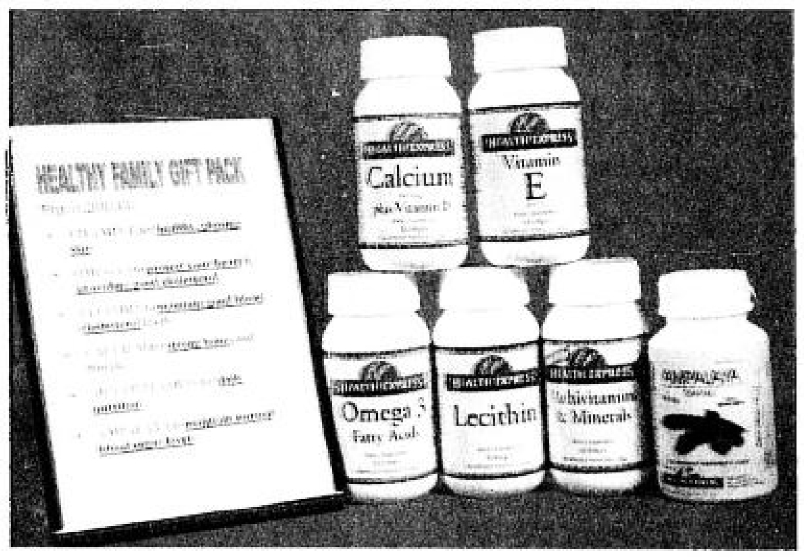
ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GOLF

An informative and fun book, Golfing Philippines is the complete guide to all the golf in the country. From the first page of this beautifully photographed 408-page book, it is the perfect gift not only for golfers but also for overseas friends who can read and visualize the golfing treats that await them in the Philippines. There are photos and information on 96 golf courses as well as essays by authorities on golf course architecture, agronomy and the rules of golf, among others. Golfing Philippines is available at select Manila bookstores, magazine outlets, hotels, golf pro shops such as Nevada Bob's, Pan West, Proline and PacSports, and the following golf courses: Wack Wack, Manila Golf, Manila Southwoods, Riviera and Sherwood Hills. Call 834-1671/1672 or e-mail editor@golfing-asia.com.



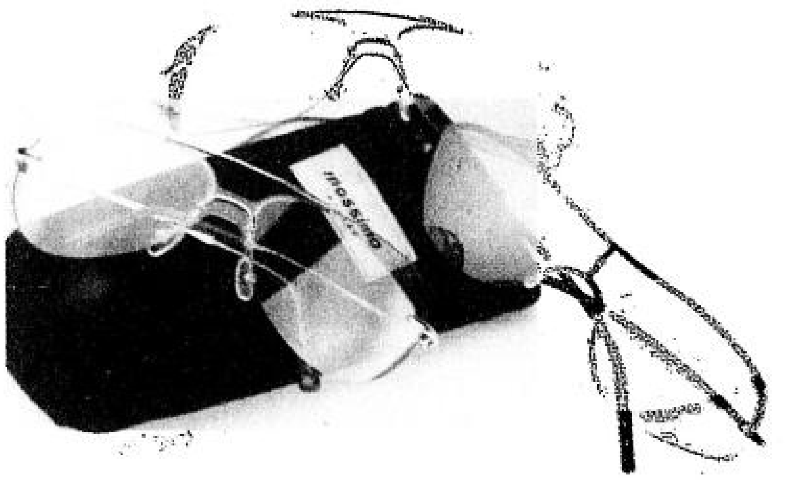
CHIC CHRISTMAS

The Oakley Four and Oakley Four S shades are a definitive approach to retro styling. Made of lightweight material, this pair is signed with true metal icons. Its wrap and rake have been cut into sleek dimensions and position the lenses along a defined plane in front of the eyes. Its vertical dimensions are compressed and its optics widened for a sleek shape that tapers into sculptural hinges. The Four S, on the other hand, reduces the geometry to fit smaller faces.



FAMILY PACK

Healthy Express offers a promo package consisting of six dietary supplement brands specifically selected to meet the demands of the holidays: Nature's Bounty Garlic Oil, Nature's Bounty Echinacea, Nature's Bounty Milk Thistle, USA Laboratories Omega 3, USA Laboratories Maximum CoQ-10 and Health Express/Altermed Ampalaya. Visit Health Express at F2,Quad II, Ayala Center, Makati, or call 892-7978, 840-1855 or 892-9364.



TRENDY AND LIGHT

From the fashion house that has continuously pushed to redefine contemporary fashion comes a new eyewear collection, Mossimo Vision. Its XSOL polarized sunglasses are guaranteed to provide a dual visual performance as their lenses have been intelligently constructed to cut 99 percent of the surface glare that occurs as the sun hits them. But most importantly, this fresh innovation gives you the ultimate protection from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The XBRILLO line uses ballistic lenses. Made of polycarbonate material, they provide zero visual distortion to give you a good amount of safety when you're on the road or in other circumstances that require careful and clear vision. The lenses are of scratch-free and impact-resistant material.

mossimo
simo visio

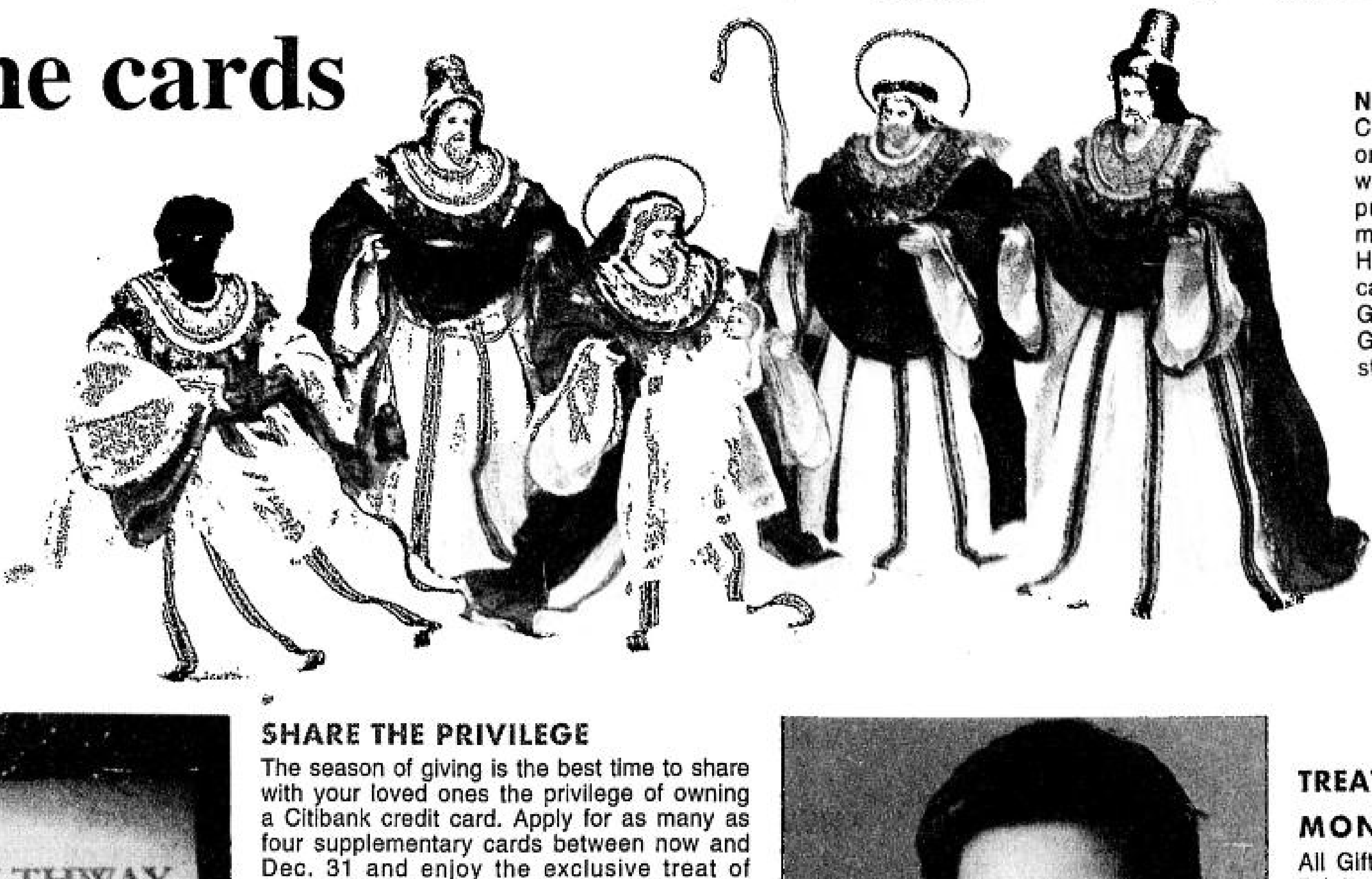
Christmas is in the cards

CUSTOM-MADE, handcrafted Limited Edition Nativity Collection sets worth P5,000 each are now offered at only P1,000 exclusively to HSBC cardholders, as part of Ayala Center's 12 Days of Christmas and Fireworks Festival at Glorietta. Each nativity set is made up of five characters—Mary with Baby Jesus, Joseph and the Three Kings.

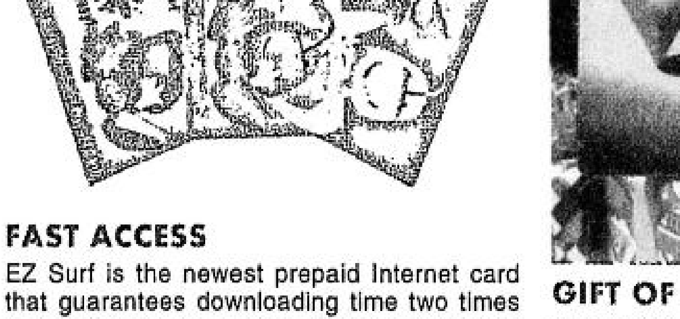
To get a complete Limited Edition Nativity Collection set, HSBC credit card holders simply need to make a single or accumulated purchase of at least P1,000 in a day with their HSBC credit card at any store in Glorietta or Greenbelt until Dec. 23. On the same day they made the purchases, cardholders should bring their HSBC credit card along with their charge slips to any of the three HSBC redemption booths around Glorietta. The booth attendants will then validate their receipts and charge the special P1,000 price to their HSBC Visa or MasterCard.

There is no limit to the number of Nativity sets a cardholder can buy. Cardholders are entitled to one complete Limited Edition Nativity Collection set for every P1,000 they spend. The more cardholders spend using their HSBC credit cards, the more Nativity sets they can bring home.

Whether as a gift or a Christmas treasure to keep for your own, HSBC's Limited Edition Nativity collection is a unique and affordable find this season.



NATIVITY Collection for only P1,000 with purchases made on HSBC credit card at any Glorietta or Greenbelt store



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EZ Surf is the newest prepaid Internet card that guarantees downloading time two times faster than what most Internet cards, including some of the more popular ones, offer. Waiting time is minimized and use of the Internet is maximized. The fast access that EZ Surf provides may mean more time to spend keeping in touch with loved ones online. Aside from fast access, EZ Surf also guarantees reliable connection and excellent customer support to its users. Now available in EasyCall E-Shops, leading Internet cafés, retail stores, computer shops, telecoms dealers and convenience stores in denominations of P120 (three hours), P220 (six hours) and P500 (15 hours).

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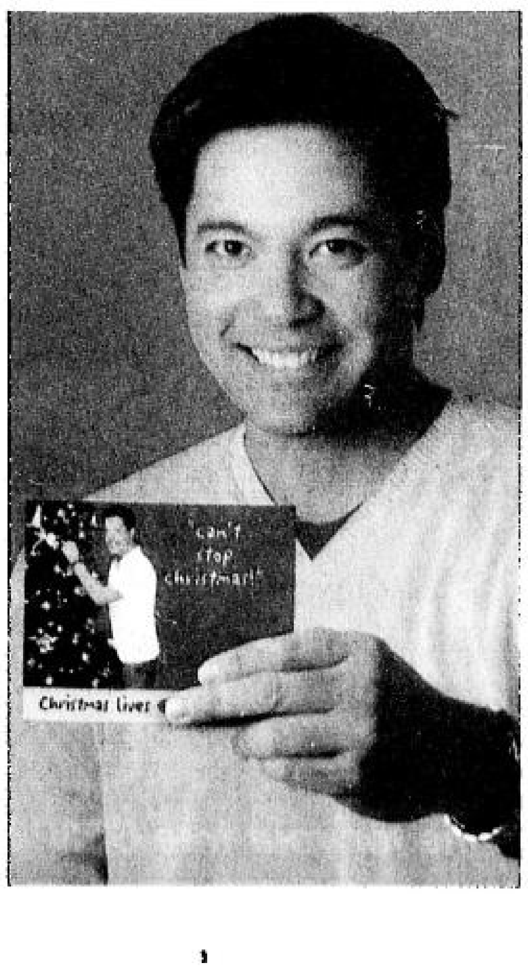
Healthway Medical Clinics offers a Christmas present that will leave a lasting impression. For only P950, its Privilege Card entitles the holder to extensive medical benefits, such as free unlimited medical consultation with a pool of competent family physicians, comprehensive annual physical exam, discounts on laboratory and diagnostic tests and fixed professional fees. The card is available at the Healthway Medical Clinics on Ayala Avenue, Greenbelt, Binondo, SM City, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall and Laguna Technopark. Call 893-7910/7920/7940.

SHARE THE PRIVILEGE

The season of giving is the best time to share with your loved ones the privilege of owning a Citibank credit card. Apply for as many as four supplementary cards between now and Dec. 31 and enjoy the exclusive treat of waived first year annual fees. Citibank supplementary cards come in a unique packaging. The offer is open to Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Clear MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Visa Platinum card members. Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces or visit www.citibank.com.ph.



TREAT OF THE MONTH

All Gift Gate Privilege Cardholders can now avail of a free CD of Martin Nievera's most-talked about Christmas song, "Can't Stop Christmas," at any Gift Gate store. Simply present your calendar coupon for the month and the CD is yours free. Experience the magic of Christmas with the song that will touch your heart and find out why you simply can't stop Christmas.

CWL MAYSAN HOLDS LOYALTY DAY

The Catholic Women's League of the Holy Rosary Parish Maysan Unit recently held its eighth anniversary and loyalty day ceremony. CWL officers include Florencia Miranda, president; Vivian Casimiro, first vice president; Nene Co, second VP; Sol S. Baga, secretary; Millie Sampang, treasurer; Lydia Caingal, auditor; and Gloria Santos, Valenzuela Vicarial president. Board members include Rosalina dela Cruz, Conchita Cantillon, Marina Candido, Rosie Casimiro, Edith David, Maring Silvestre, Cecile Go, Dina Doma, Elma Uy. Photo shows CWL choir members with organist Mauricio Francisco Jr.

Boost your immune system by strengthening your seven spiritual centers

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IS the whole of mankind doomed? Can man ever survive the many natural and man-made catastrophes that daily come his way?

Take a moment to observe what's happening around us. Almost everything we come in contact with poses as a health hazard to us, from the air we breathe to the water we drink and the food we eat. It seems nothing is safe anymore. Even the medicines prescribed by licensed doctors have sometimes caused greater illness than the disease they aim to cure.

I once heard an American Indian medicine man say, in a healing conference in Honolulu, that man today is sandwiched between the sky and the earth with deadly diseases causing microorganisms and pollutants from which he cannot escape.

He said both the depletion of the protective ozone layer above the earth's atmosphere and the many chemical pollutants on earth have caused mutations in the genes and the cells of microorganisms, creating newer and deadlier species unknown to medical science.

He said there was no known scientific solution to this problem. Man is slowly dying on planet Earth.

But maybe man is not completely helpless. Maybe there is a solution. The clue to this may lie in an extraordinary but simple advice given by the spirit of a living spiritual guru in India, which was unexpectedly channeled by a small group of meditators in Makati recently.

Spiritual teacher

On Oct. 4, the group met to receive messages from highly evolved beings from other dimensions. Without their knowing it, a guest silently invoked the spirit of a living Indian spiritual teacher who is considered by his followers to be a second Christ because of his many demonstrated miraculous powers. One of the members suddenly went into a trance, gave out the hand signals or *mudra* of this guru which are known only to his followers, and then answered questions.

Somebody in the group asked about what was happening in the Philippines, particularly about the virus that attacked some school children recently.

"This is part of what has been unleashed way before the international conflict erupted," answered the entranced member in the high-pitched voice of the Indian guru. "There have been experiments and there are more microorganisms. Some of them escaped from the laboratories and became airborne in certain places. Then, with the changes in weather, created mutations, unleashing their forces."

"How can we deal with this virus?" the group asked.

"Only by strengthening your immune system," came the answer. "You have to fight it, through the natural antibodies, the natural defenses in your bodies. Avoid those things that will weaken your immune system."

"And what if our immune system has already been weakened?"

"There are still ways of boosting it. Meditation. A special type of meditation can help you. I have called upon my people to help in this endeavor. I am going from place to place in many dimensions trying to effect the changes in many levels, not only on the physical plane, but also on other planes so that things will not go down to the physical level."

Somebody asked a question about Osama bin Laden, so that discussions got diverted for a while, but fortunately another number of the group brought the discussion back in focus.

Seven chakras

"You mentioned there's a special type of meditation that can help us strengthen our immune system, can you teach us this technique?"

"My dear," he replied, "how soon you forget the teachings that have been given to you. You are familiar with the seven *chakras*. You are familiar with glands corresponding to the *chakras*. You have been taught well how to use this. Meditate on the *chakras*. Strengthen the *chakras* and you strengthen the immune system. Understand?"

The group was pleasantly stunned by the answer. Of course, they know this type of meditation. The members of the meditation group that channeled this Indian guru are all former students of mine and they have been taught a special meditation to balance, cleanse and activate the *chakras*, the seven psychic or spiritual centers in man.

I never imagined that meditating on the *chakras* can also boost the immune system and help fight disease. But after some thought, it all makes perfect sense. It is very simple to do and yet we have not paid too much attention to it. Now there's a greater reason to meditate on the *chakras* other than just to cleanse, balance and activate them. It may even be the key to the survival of mankind on planet Earth.

Send letters to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

> Man may not be completely helpless against all the deadly diseases that have been brought on by microorganisms and pollutants

Expo celebrates Filipina's achievements

MEETING Planners Group Inc. holds Motherhood & Woman Expo, the first international exhibition and seminars on women, mothers and children's needs, on May 3-5 at the World Trade Center in Manila.

Motherhood and Woman Expo celebrates the achievements of the Filipina while providing business opportunities, information and entertainment.

Motherhood and Woman Expo categories include "Mothers & Babies' Needs," "Home & Family," "Lifestyles," "Health," "Fitness & Sports," "Business & Career Management" and "Kids' Needs" (health, education and recreation).

Companies who are into business-to-business and business-to-consumer marketing will definitely profit as an exhibitor. Over 150 booths will be available for person-to-person consultations, interactive presentations, direct transactions and retailing.

Motherhood and Woman Expo will also feature Fashion Trends, Makeovers, Women's Wellness, Safe Motherhood and Parenting Tips, Gifts and Accessories, Money Matters, Career Development and Entrepreneurship.

Call 852-7618 to 19, e-mail mpg@skyinet.net or fax 852-7620.

Bazaar at Glorietta ongoing

THE TWO-MONTH-LONG Bazaar @ Glorietta 4 recently held a simple opening ceremony. The festivity, consisting of an invocation and blessing by Fr. Alton Fernandez and cocktails, was held at the Glorietta Activity Center. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon were Miriam Quiambao, host of "Unang Hirit," and her cohost, Hans Montenegro.

Mall clients and yuppies mingled with bazaar exhibitors, Ayala Center's operators and special guests from other Ayala Land Inc. subsidiaries. There was fun during the traditional coin throwing.

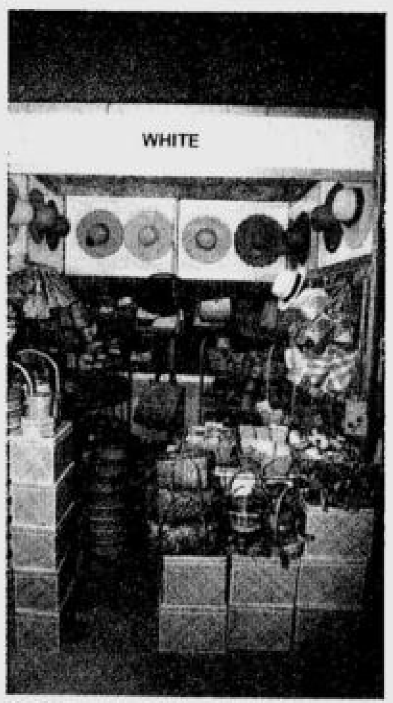
The Bazaar @ Glorietta 4 is ongoing at the 2/F Glorietta 4.

SIFRA ARTS & CRAFTS

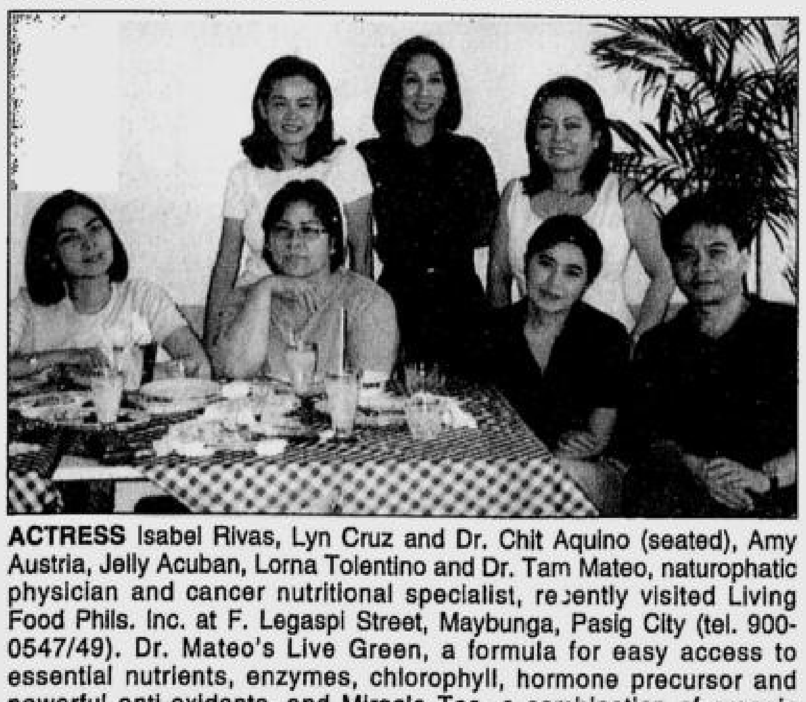
SIFRA Arts & Crafts

KEEPSAKES & MEMORIES

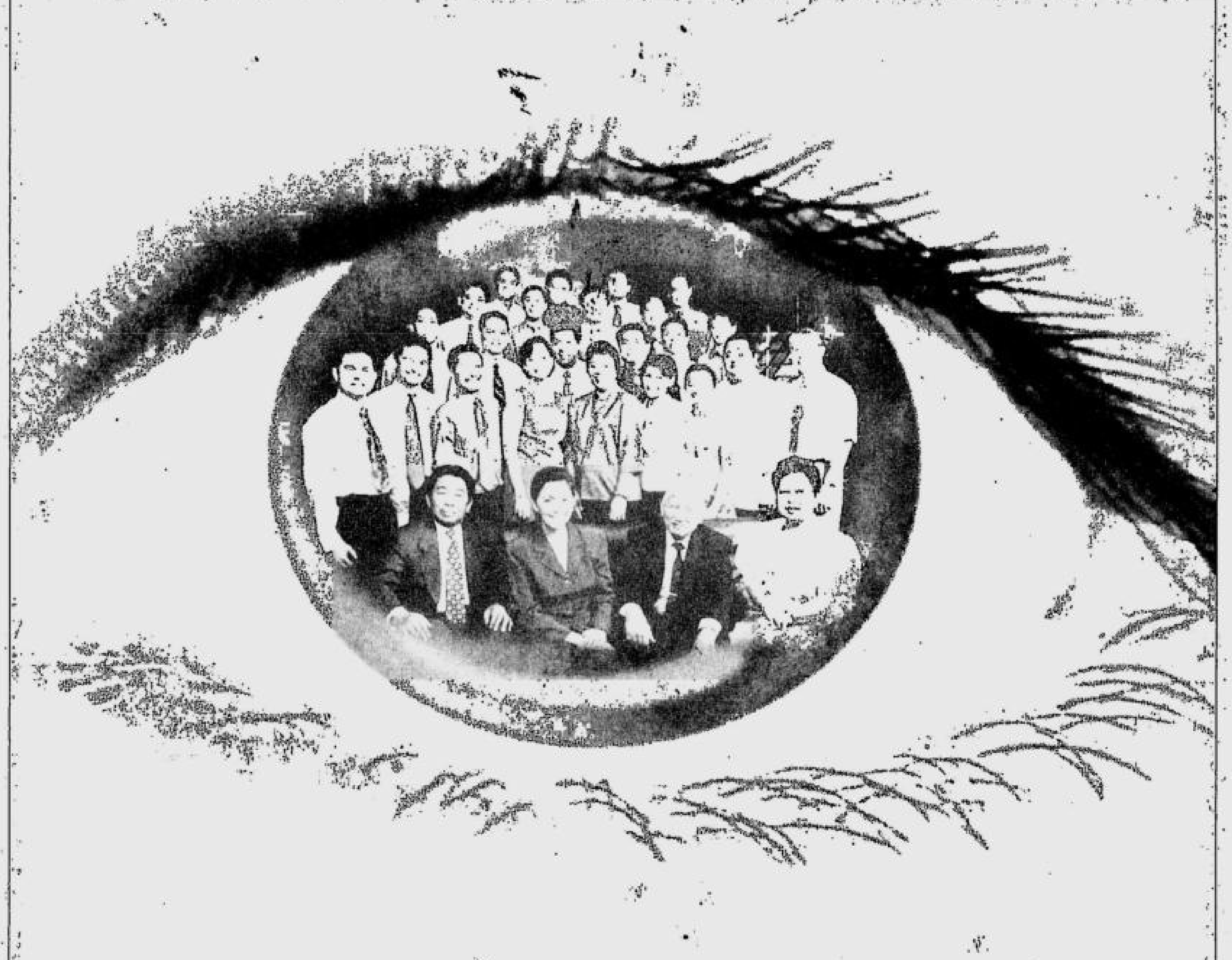
KEEPSAKES & Memories



WHITE handicrafts



ACTRESS Isabel Rivas, Lyn Cruz and Dr. Chit Aquino (seated), Amy Austria, Jelly Acuban, Lorna Tolentino and Dr. Tam Mateo, naturophatic physician and cancer nutritional specialist, recently visited Living Food Phils. Inc. at F. Legaspi Street, Maybunga, Pasig City (tel. 900-0547/49). Dr. Mateo's Live Green, a formula for easy access to essential nutrients, enzymes, chlorophyll, hormone precursor and powerful anti-oxidants, and Miracle Tea, a combination of organic herbs for cleansing and detoxification of the colon, have helped boost the immune system of a number of cancer-survivors.



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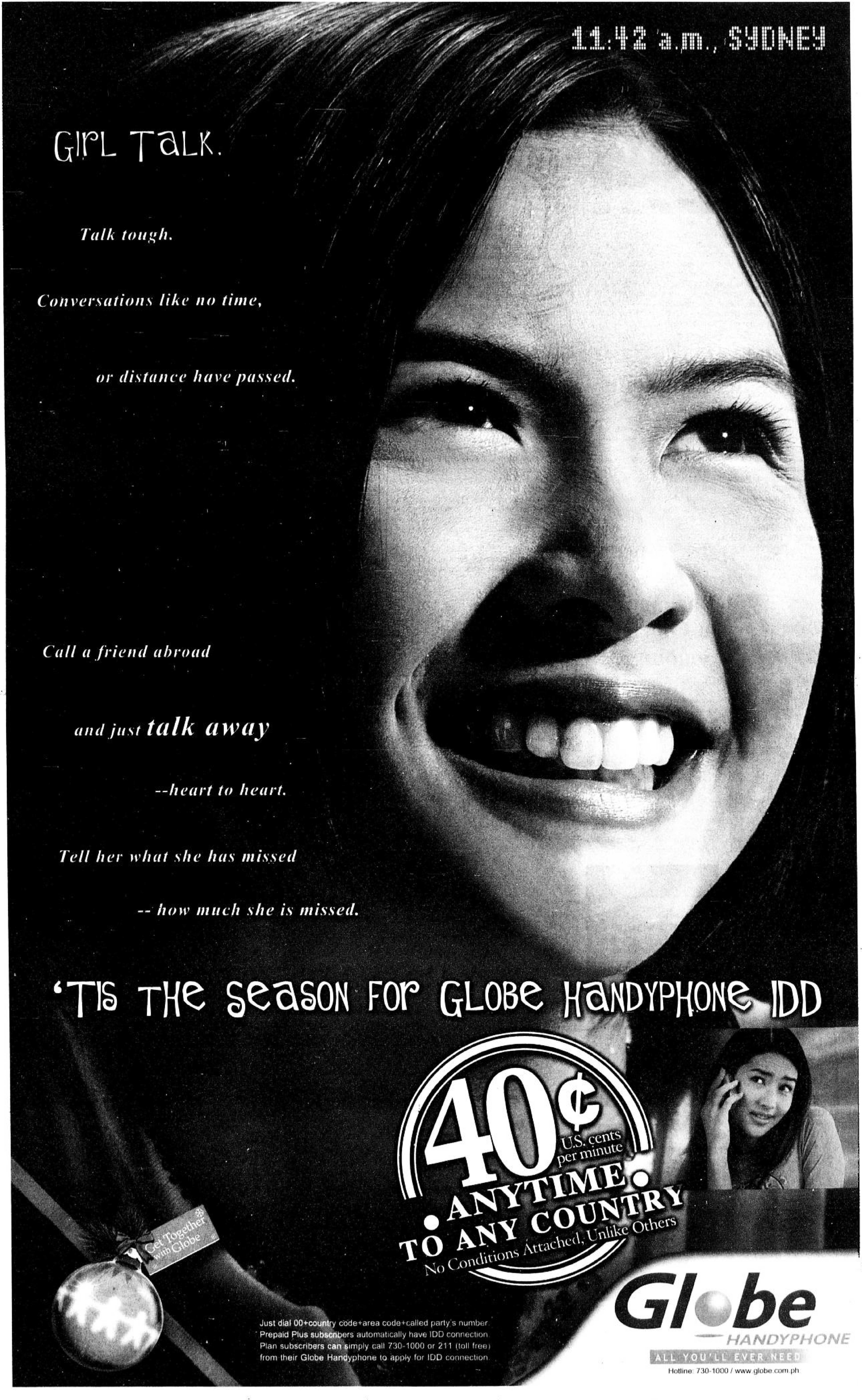

11:42 a.m., SYDNEY

GIRL TALK.

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